



Board Meeting

**Date: Monday, November 13, 2023, 5:00pm
USDA Service Center, Yorkville, IL**

Present:	Absent:
Kerri Horton, Vice Chairman Scott Kaufmann, Treasurer Rita Feltes, Secretary Deanna Bazan, Director @ 5:12pm Alyse Olson, Resource Conservationist Julie Brown, Administrative Coordinator Megan Andrews, Soil Conservationist Sandy Whaley, EC Substitute Seth Wormley, Kendall County Board Liaison @ 5:20pm, left @6:17pm	Butch Konicek, Chairman Ariel Beauchamp, Education Coordinator

5:05 pm: **Call to Order**
 Meeting was called to order by Kerri Horton, Vice Chairman.
 Horton called for additions to the agenda. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve the agenda by: Scott Kaufmann; 2nd by Rita Feltes - Motion Carried.**

5:07 pm: **Minutes for Approval**

- Horton called for approval of the September board meeting minutes. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve the September board meeting minutes by: Scott Kaufmann; 2nd by Rita Feltes – Motion Carried.**
- Horton called for approval of the 10.3.23 Education Meeting minutes. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve the 10.3.23 Education Meeting minutes by: Scott Kaufmann; 2nd by Rita Feltes – Motion Carried.**

5:10 pm: **Financial Reports**
 Brown highlighted the bank change for the copier lease, golf outing, training, presenter fuel, fish & tree sale, employee dues and nursery permit expenses. She also highlighted the deposit of a field verification enrollment, and fish & tree sale monies. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve the September & October Treasurer’s Report by: Scott Kaufmann; 2nd by Rita Feltes – Motion Carried.**

5:24 pm: **Reports**
Committees Personnel/Finance, Policy, Education, Strategic Planning: No committee report at this time.

NRCS: Written report provided by Katundra Shears & included in packet. Highlights provided by Megan Andrews include:

- Jermey Bowers has accepted another detail. Matt Bunger will be his acting until a permanent replacement can be hired.
- Jen Hammer is back from her detail and Megan Andrews is catching her back up to speed from her time covering the Grundy NRCS office. Megan will soon resume her regular schedule in Kendall County.
- Felicia Speranske has been officially relocated to her detail in New Mexico.
- New Conservation Planner Collin Nye housed in Grundy County.

- Ron Burling is the new CED for Grundy & Kendall Counties.
- Potential Government shutdown again as the continuing resolution expires 11-17.23.
- 9-30-23 Marked the end of NRCS fiscal year.
- 2 County easements are currently going through annual monitoring.
- CRP is temporarily on hold as the latest farm bill has expired. Existing CRP will move forward but no new signups until a new farm bill is established.

SWCD:

- EC- Sandy Whaley: Report provided as written with highlights on the following:
 - Apple lesson reached 46 classrooms and over 1,000 students.
 - Soybean plastic lesson is estimated to reach almost 1,500 students in November & December.
 - Sandy's focus will be scheduling presentations and material preparations.
- RC- Alyse Olson: Report provided as written with highlights on the following:
 - PFC Projects:
 - Grass waterway payment being split.
 - Cover crop project waiting on FSA documentation.
 - Rain garden has been half fall planted. Other half to be planted in the spring.
 - SSRP 1 application received, funding has been approved, landowner is getting bids.
 - Kendall County Building Planning & Zoning Meeting
 - Ag Mitigation: 2 new solar farms in Kendall County
 - 2 Receiving stations for Lake MI water coming to Montgomery & Yorkville
 - Fox River Dam Removals
- AC- Julie Brown: Report provided as written with highlights on the following:
 - 3rd Quarter taxes filed
 - Register staff for winter training/book hotels
 - Register staff for 2024 cropping seminar
 - Fish & Tree Sales
 - New newsletter sign-up form on website
 - EC Substitute onboarding & assistance/material prep
 - EC Intern interview & onboarding
 - Election preparations
 - Newsletter sponsor list/letters

Kendall County Board: Seth Wormley provided a verbal update. The counties main focus has been the 2024 budget. Employee health plans and inflation have been driving costs. The budget has been finalized/approved and is posted online.

IDOA: See BLWR report in partner updates.

AISWCD: Verbal updates given by Julie Brown. Highlights include:

- Outdoor Hall of Fame recipient Deanna Bazan
- AISWCD seeking volunteers for a new "seeking committee" to develop board retention.
- No-till November shared via social media
- 2024 IL Monarch Pledge now open

LUC 3: The next Meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 7th via Zoom.

ISWCDEA / Insurance Committee: September & October invoices received and paid.

6:09 pm:

Old Business:

1. **Timesheets Review & Approval:** Staff September & October timesheets were presented for review and approval. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve September & October Timesheets by: Deanna Bazan 2nd by Scott Kaufmann; – Motion Carried.**
2. **American Farmland Trust: Farms Under Threat Webinar:** Bazan met with the Kendall County Advisory board regarding the Fox River Initiative and was asked if the district would like to be a sponsor. The board agreed it would be a good committee to support.
3. **Kendall County Budget Hearing:** The district has been slated to receive \$55,000.00.

6:16 pm:

New Business

1. **Natural Resources Information Report Review & Approval:** NRI Report 2309 was presented for review and approval. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve NRI 2309- by: Deanna Bazan; 2nd by Scott Kaufmann – Motion Carried.**
2. **Petition for a General Election/ Acceptance of Nominees:** The board was presented the petition for a general election for signature. Brown will submit it to IDOA. Brown informed the board the acceptance of nominees has been published.
3. **2024 Tree Planting Initiative:** Olson shared that Kendall County Extension/AISWCD is looking for more SWCD participants. The board agreed it is a good project for the district to be involved in. Olson will reach out to the Oswego Land Park District for location scouting.
4. **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Request for Interagency Coordination Agreement for Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Services:** The board was presented the Sample Interagency Coordination Agreement for Soil Erosion & Sediment Control (SESC) Services. Discussion Ensued.
5. **Holiday Leave:** The staff requested the office be closed December 26th through the 29th.
6. **AC PTO Request:** Brown requested February 20th through 22nd (3 days) of PTO leave.

6:40 pm:

Correspondence:

- AISWCD: Updates:
- IDOA: Updates: BWLR Report included in packet.
- NACD: eResources: Weekly Updates
- NRCS: Updates
- Updates: FREP, Chicago Wilderness, The Conservation Foundation

6:41 pm:

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Julie Brown, 2nd by Alyse Olson– Motion Carried.

Our next regular board meeting is scheduled for December 11th, 2023, 5:00pm at the Yorkville USDA Service Center.

Minutes Submitted by: Julie Brown