

Board Meeting

September 17, 2025

The Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District held their monthly meeting on September 17th, 2025 at 7:00 PM at 233 S. Soangetaha Rd. Galesburg, IL 61401, with the budget hearing happening beforehand at 3:45 P.M. Directors present were George Cummings, Chris Bewley, and AJ Harland. Also present was Don Moffitt, Associate Director, Kara Downin, Resource Conservationist, and Katie Ingle, Administrative and Education Coordinator.

Agenda

Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the agenda. Motion passed 3-0.

Secretary Report

Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the August 20th secretary report. Motion passed 3-0.

Treasurer Report

Katie Ingle presented the treasurer's report. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the treasurers report. Motion passed 3-0.

Bills

The bills were presented to show deposits and debits for the accounts at Tompkins State Bank. Discussion was held on bills to be paid and the estimated bills for the October board meeting to be paid. AJ Harland made a motion to approve the bills as presented which was seconded by Chris Bewley. Motion passed 3-0.

Old Business

Funding Update- Kara informed the board that we have not received the FY26 Grant Agreement to sign yet, which has to be done by all 96 Districts before we can receive the FY26 operations and cost share allotments. She is also planning on turning in a CRP invoice to Association on Friday.

Updated NRI Application- Katie highlighted the changes made to the NRI application based on the decisions the board had made at the last meeting, including the price increases and adding an area for the applicant to describe the project they are applying for.

Bid Package

New Business

CPP/PFC- Kara sought approval for contract 336, sealing a drilled well, with a maximum cost share of \$850. AJ Harland made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to approve the contract. Motion passed 3-0. Contract 336 is for Mark Stansell. She also sought approval for contract 337, a critical area planting of 54.6 acres, with a maximum cost share of \$12,860.76. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the contract. Motion passed 3-0. Contract 337 is for P. R. Hunt Club LLC. Next Kara sought re-approval for contract 338, one dug well, with a maximum cost share of \$500. This contract was approved 9-12-25 via email, where Brian Freidrich made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to approve the contract. Motions passed 3-0. During today's board meeting Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to formally confirm approval. Motion passed 3-0. Contract 338 is for Christine Brannon-Dortch. Kara also sought approval for contract 339, 7 bioreactors physically in Warren County but going to be funded through the ISAP Batch & Build Grant money with 100% cost share. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the project. Motion passed 3-0. Contract 339 is for James Thompson, Amanda Whitehead, Anna Whitehead, Catriona Whitehead, and Molly Whitehead. Next Kara sought approval for contract 340, one bioreactor that is again going to be funded using the ISAP Batch and Build funds with 100% cost share. AJ Harland made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to approve the project. Motion passed 3-0. Contract 340 is for Alexandra and Wallace Thompson and Lydia Whitehead. Lastly, Kara sought approval for an amendment on contract 325, which was for 1 WASOB with John and Becky Nichols. They wanted to change the location and amount of tile

risers which increased the maximum cost share from \$2,324.25 to \$3,103.26. Chris Bewley made a motion to approve the amendment, which was seconded by AJ Harland. Motion passed 3-0.

Edward Jones CD 9-18-25- Katie reminded the board that one of the CD's was maturing the next day. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to renew the CD for another 3 months and add the interest back into it with rounding to the nearest thousandth. Motion passed 3-0.

FY26 CRP Pre-Proposal- Kara informed the board of her and Katie's anticipated workload for CRP next year. Kara is willing to sign on for 40 contracts and Katie for 10 contracts with a little over 500 acres total. AJ Harland made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to approve Kara's FY26 CRP Proposal as is. Motion passed 3-0.

Brief Annual Mtg in December – Kara reminded the board that this year our annual board meeting will be brief, not a hosted event, and that it will be held at 4 PM with dinner provided afterwards.

Knox Co. SWCD Bid Policy Approval- Kara informed the board that she could not find any bid policy guidance for special districts in Illinois, and that she did the best she could with guidance from Marty our BLWR representative and Scott Erickson, the Knox County Clerk. Chris Bewley made a motion that we adopt the drafted bid policy as is, which AJ Harland seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Board Meeting: October 15th @ 7:00 PM- The next board meeting will be held on October 15th at 7:00 PM and will be held at the USDA Building (233 S Soangetaha Rd. Galesburg, IL 61401).

Other Reports

Resource Conservationist- Kara informed the board that she was finishing up the last of CRP for the year, as well as sending Stark SWCD the last invoice for the status reviews she helped with. She also touched base with all approved CPP contracts to make sure they were moving along. She is now mostly focusing on the bid process for the ISAP grant. The mule's new transmission is finally at the mechanics so her and Katie will be taking that in later this week to finally be fixed. Lastly, the Knox County Health Department reached out asking Kara to speak at the Health Department state conference early next year, Kara will be on PTO but Katie said she will be available to give a presentation on our well sealing cost share process.

Administrative and Education Coordinator- Katie let the board know that she was also focusing on CRP this past month, she completed 2 contracts independently and is looking forward to helping with more in the future. She is also focusing on her RMS plans that she will need to turn in to receive her Conservation Planner Level 3 certification.

Zoning- Katie presented a completed NRI report for North Hale Wind LLC. The project is physically located in Warren County and the report is for one wind tower and access road. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the report. Motion passed 3-0.

Correspondence

Katie presented the monthly Field and Bean and Farm Bureau newsletters as well as thank-you cards from Tompkins State Bank for banking with them, and the Knox County Farm Safety Camp for the donation.

Meeting Ending

Chris Bewley made a motion to adjourn the meeting which AJ Harland seconded. Motion passed 3-0.

Submitted by: Katie Bewley

Date: 10-15-25

Approved by: Chris Bewley

Date: 10-15-25