

Board Meeting

January 21, 2026

The Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District held their monthly meeting on January 21st, 2025 at 4:00 PM at 233 S Soangetaha Rd. Galesburg, IL 61401. Directors present were George Cummings, Brian Friedrich, Chris Bewley, Dave Asbury, and AJ Harland. Also present was Rhonda Brady, guest, Don Moffit, Associate Director, Kindra Pruett, Acting District Conservationist, Kara Downin, Resource Conservationist, and Katie Ingle, Administrative and Education Coordinator.

Agenda

Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury, to approve the agenda. Motion passed 5-0.

Secretary Report

Chris Bewley made a motion, AJ Harland, to approve the December 17th secretary report. Motion passed 5-0.

Treasurer Report

Dave Asbury presented the treasurer's report. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury, to approve the treasurers report. Motion passed 5-0.

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 February board meeting to be paid. Chris Bewley made a motion to approve the bills as which was seconded by Dave Asbury. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

Funding Update- Kara informed the board that IDOA is working on the FY26 grant agreement and has not sent it out to the districts yet. There is currently only one outstanding invoice with IDNR that we are waiting on payment for landowner verification, and one outstanding invoice with NRCS for CRP work.

Election Reminder- Katie reminded the board that today was the director election and to cast their votes if they hadn't already.

Edward Jones CD's- Katie informed the board that there are two CD's maturing before the February board meeting and that they would be renewed for another 3 months with the interest added and rounded up to the nearest thousand.

New Business

CPP/PFC- Kara sought approval to enter an agreement with IDNR for contract 333 streambank stabilization using IDNR Mitigation Funds to cost share up to \$30,940 of the project. AJ Harland made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury, to approve the agreement. Motion passed 5-0. Chris Bewley then made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury to approve the project. Motion passed 5-0. Contract 333 is for Chipper 1 LLC. Kara also sought approval for contract 348 for a dug well with a maximum cost share of \$500. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the project. Motion passed 5-0. Contract 348 is for Beverley J Nelson Trustee.

IDOA Soil Health Assessment- Kara let the board know that IDOA has finally given us guidelines on how to complete the assessment that is due in September of this year. She asked the board for advice on how to tackle some of the trickier questions about county crop rotations and tillage practices without having to look at every single field in the county. AJ Harland made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury, to gather a county average of these questions by selecting 4 points in each township within the county (80 points total) Motion passed 5-0.

Local Work Group- Katie informed the board that it is now going to be a requirement to participate in the local work group initiative with Association. She informed them that the survey included in the most recent newsletter has already gotten responses back and that is what they are planning to use to complete the final report.

ISAP Year 2 Agreement- Kara informed the board that we had received the agreement for year 2 to sign and that we will be getting another \$15,000 in operations. AJ Harland made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to sign the year 2 agreement. Motion passed 5-0.

Training Needs Inventory- Kara let the board know that normally at this time we would have the paperwork from NRCS and we could review what trainings the board wants us to add but we have not received any word from NRCS yet.

Board Meeting: February 18th @ 4:00 PM- The next board meeting will be held on February 18th at 4:00 PM at the USDA building. (233 S Soangetaha Rd. Galesburg, IL 61401).

Other Reports

Rhonda Brady- Mrs. Brady let the board know that the 2026 Monarch Migration Festival will be Saturday, September 12th at the Lakeside Nature Center. She also spent time explaining the importance and behavior of the butterflies.

Resource Conservationist- Kara informed the board that she has one last CPP project from 2025 that is still not wrapped up yet due to the structure not passing the final engineering checkout. She is having the NRCS Area Engineer check it. Coming up on her workload is going to be CREP monitoring with Katie, including emailing all the landowners and making appointments. Finally, the mule has had a master switch for the battery installed along with a solar panel on the trailer for the trickle charger. Kara thanked Brian Friedrich for doing all of them himself.

Administrative and Education Coordinator- Katie informed the board that she had mostly been focusing on the newsletter the last month. The No-Till Conference that she went to with the Warren Co. SWCD was extremely insightful and she learned a lot from a lot of different perspectives, getting to talk to people from all over the world about their reasons. She also has been working on NRI reports for zoning, and her RMS plan.

Acting District Conservationist- Kindra let the board know that the application cutoff for their programs was January 15th and they had 32 EQIP applications and 5 CSP applications. Landowners will find out if they were selected some time in March. Her workload is going to be focusing on CRP now that the application deadline has passed.

Zoning- Katie presented her NRI report for a 59 acre solar farm in Henderson township for Wataga Solar, LLC. Brian made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to approve Katie's report. Motion passed 5-0.

Correspondence

Katie passed out the monthly Farm Bureau Newsletter.

Meeting Ending

Dave Asbury made a motion to adjourn the meeting which Brian Friedrich seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Submitted by: Katie Jogle

Date: 2-18-26

Approved by: Chris Bewley

Date: 2-18-26