

Board Meeting

July 16th, 2025

The Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District held their monthly meeting on July 16th, 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 Don Moffitt, Associate Director, Kindra Pruett, Acting District Conservationist, Kara Downin, Resource Conservationist, and Katie Ingle, Administrative and Education Coordinator.

Agenda

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

Secretary Report

Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury, to approve the June 16th secretary report. Motion passed 5-0.

Treasurer Report

Dave Asbury presented the treasurer's report. AJ Harland made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, 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 August board meeting to be paid. Dave Asbury made a motion to approve the bills as presented which was seconded by Brian Friedrich. Motion passed 5-0.

Old Business

Funding Update- Kara informed the board that we had the grant amendment to sign to allot for FY25 cost share and after checking with Marty, should be receiving those funds at the end of August. She also mentioned that they received \$900 for technical assistance with the RCPP Climate Smart Priority Practices.

Transfer of CREP Ownership To IDNR- Kara updated the board that IDNR is finally moving forward with transferring the ownership of the CREP easements from the district back to IDNR. The board originally approved the transfer in a board meeting in 2021 but IDNR wanted a reaffirmation of the decision. AJ Harland made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to reaffirm the decision to transfer ownership back to IDNR. Motion passed 5-0.

New Business

CPP/PFC- Kara sought approval for a deadline extension on contract 323 for C.L. Cummings which is for sealing one drilled well. The contractor does not anticipate being able to complete

construction within the original deadline of August 19th. Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland to extend the deadline to December 1st 2025. Motion passed 5-0. Kara also sought approval for contract 330 which is for a lined grassed waterway with a maximum cost share of \$6,416.30 and a construction deadline of December 1st 2025. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury to approve contract 330. Motion passed 5-0. Contract 330 is for Keith Webster. Next, Kara sought approval for contract 331 which is for a pipe drop structure with a maximum cost share of \$14,636.47 and a construction deadline of December 1st 2025. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by Brian Friedrich, to approve the project. Motion passed 5-0. Contract 331 is for Stacy Webster. Kara also sought approval for contract 334 for sealing one dug well with a maximum cost share of \$500. Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the project. Motion passed 5-0. Contract 334 is for Justin Moffit. Lastly, Kara updated the board that contract 332, which was sealing one drilled well for Paul Ladner, was not going to happen due to a change in goals for the property. The agreement form was never signed so there is no penalty or recovery of costs needed.

Edward Jones CD Expiring 7/24 & 8/13- Katie informed the board that they have two CD's maturing before the next board meeting. Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded Chris Bewley, to renew the CD's for another 3 months and add the interest earned back into them while rounding up to the nearest thousandth dollar. Motion passed 5-0.

NRI Information Update- Kara updated the board that Warren County got a producer asking for an NRI report and since their SWCD does not do them, Kara asked the board if they are ok with her and Katie doing NRI reports outside of the county as long as the county SWCD that the report is in is ok with it. She also was seeking guidance on how to Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to accept NRI report requests from outside of the county as long as that SWCD is ok with it, and to also add an additional \$100 "out of county" flat fee to the normal NRI report fee. Motion passed 5-0. Kara also sought the board's advice on how to proceed with the wind energy company that wants a section of their NRI report updated. The NRI report was from 2020 and the section they wanted updated was the "USDA Review" section, including CRP contracts, EQIP contracts, and CSP contracts. Kara explained that that information is not the district's to share and she isn't sure which landowners would need updated and signed information release forms. It is also for an area covering almost 22,000 acres of farm land. The board recommended letting the company know that it was going to take at least 3 months to gather all the updated information and charging the full NRI report fee and if they need the report sooner than 3 months they need to reach out to the landowners that they are working with and who hold the USDA contracts themselves.

FY26 Tentative Budget- Discussion was held on the FY26 tentative budget that Katie and Kara presented to the board. Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the tentative budget. Motion passed 5-0.

Board Meeting: August 20th @ 4:00 PM- The next board meeting will be held on August 20th at 4:00 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 the water and sediment control basin project at John Nichols was built and is just waiting to be seeded for the bills to be turned in. She also let them know that Justin Moffit volunteered to use his well sealing for our annual demonstration that is open to the public and currently waiting to hear back from the Health Department on a date. Kara reached out to IDNR about utilizing the funds from the mitigation case and she let the board know that they were asking for a few more details and then going to bring Kara's proposal before their committee to be approved. Lastly, she informed them that she thought she had secured a "community shred event" to take our records in need of disposal but the shred event is for personal documents only, no businesses, so she is still searching for somewhere to shred.

Administrative and Education Coordinator- Katie informed the board that she had been working on getting more job approval though status reviews with Emma and Suitability and Feasibility field visits with Kara. She also was working the Fall/Summer newsletter and that includes updating all the fall sales order forms and getting new advertisers.

District Conservationist- Kindra updated the board on their current staffing levels, and how the soil conservationists in Galesburg are going to be splitting their time between Galesburg and Monmouth field offices to compensate for the shortage.

Correspondence

Katie presented the monthly Field and Bean and Farm Bureau newsletters.

Meeting Ending

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

Submitted by: Katie Angle

Date: 8-20-25

Approved by: Chris Bewley

Date: 8-20-25