

Board Meeting

August 20th, 2025

The Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District held their monthly meeting on August 20th, 2025 at 4:00 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, Brian Friedrich, Chris Bewley, Dave Asbury, and AJ Harland. Also present was Don Moffitt, Associate Director, Marty McManus, IDOA Regional Representative, 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, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the July 17th secretary report. Motion passed 5-0.

Treasurer Report

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

Old Business

Funding Update- Kara reached out to Marty who confirmed that the FY25 cost-Share allotment should still be arriving at the end of this month.

ISAP Update- Kara informed the board that the update she has will be included in the new business agenda item "ISAP Bid Process".

IDNR North Creek Project- Kara informed the board that IDNR was planning on getting her a formal response for the proposed streambank project after Labor Day.

New Business

CPP/PFC- Kara sought approval for contract 335 which is for 122.73 acres of cover crops with a maximum cost share of \$7,883.87. Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to approve the project. Motion passed 5-0. Contract 335 is for Frank Hopkins.

Gulf Hypoxia Grant- Kara explained this new grant opportunity to fund the edge-of-field practices in the ISAP Batch & Build program. The money is coming from U.S. EPA for priority watersheds along the Mississippi River with excess nitrogen runoff. The Nature Conservancy (part of ISAP) asked Kara to apply for it for more Batch & Build funding and Kara stressed to them that her she was at max capacity for workload and they would need to help her fill out the application. They agreed to fill out the application as well as assist with any of the future workload that could result from securing the grant funds.

FFP Workshop 11/5-11/6 Approval- Kara asked the board for permission to attend a watershed workshop put on by the same organization that holds the Fishers and Farmers grant that she has applied for the past few years for streambank projects. Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to approve Kara and Katie attending the workshop and bills associated with it.

Update NRI Application and Fees- The board reviewed other county's application fees for NRI reports and discussed Knox County's current fees. Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to increase the fee of a letter to \$100, each wind turbine to \$500, each switching station to \$500, a full report to \$400 for 5 acres and every additional acre after that is increased to \$50. Motion passed 5-0.

ISAP Bid Process to hire land Contractor- Kara explained that she was having trouble figuring out the bidding process requirements for the district. Marty provided her with a couple info sheets and she also reached out to other soil and water districts as well as the Galesburg Sanitary District and Knox County Clerks Office to see if they have had any experience and what their process looked like. She is currently waiting to hear back from them.

Final FY26 Budget- The board reviewed the proposed FY26 budget. Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the budget as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

Annual Plan of Work- Kara presented the updated annual plan of work. After review, Brian Friedrich made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to approve the plan. Motion passed 5-0.

Board Meeting: September 17th @ 7:00 PM- The next board meeting will be held on September 17th at 7:00 PM and will be held at the USDA Building (233 S Soangetaha Rd. Galesburg, IL 61401).

Other Reports

Resource Conservationist- Kara updated the board on the site visits her and Katie completed to check on the CPP pollinator projects that were 1-2 years old. She also finalized the well-sealing demonstration for September 2nd at 10 AM 1.5 miles west of the Wolf Covered Bridge. She will be on vacation October 2-6th. Lastly, she called AC McCartney to check on the mule transmission and left them a message requesting a warranty extension as well as a general update.

Administrative and Education Coordinator- Katie informed the board that she had been focusing on the Summer/Fall newsletter and once that was wrapped up she had worked mostly on CRP and certified planner level 3 trainings/requirements. She also informed the board that Kara had won the Illinois Conservation Hall of Fame award that she had nominated her for and told the board about at the previous meeting.

IDOA Reginal Rep.- Marty informed the board that there was quite a bit of cost-share money leftover needing to be spent from FY25 and referenced the report included in the board packet for further details on IDOA's report.

Correspondence

Katie presented the monthly Field and Bean and Farm Bureau newsletters as well as thank-you cards from Addysen Link (scholarship winner) and the two winners of the district-sponsored 4-H Fair plaques.

Meeting Ending

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

Submitted by: Katie Jogle

Date: 9-17-25

Approved by: Cyris Asbury

Date: 9-17-25