

# Board Meeting

## December 17, 2025

The Knox County Soil and Water Conservation District held their monthly meeting on December 17th, 2025 at 1:00 PM at 2590 N Seminary St. Galesburg, IL 61401. Directors present were George Cummings, Brian Friedrich, Chris Bewley, Dave Asbury, and AJ Harland. Also present was Emma Molburg, Soil Conservationist, Tim Blackwell, Conservation Planner, Jennifer Delpierre, Soil Conservationist, Joan Whitney, Associate Director, Kara Downin, Resource Conservationist, and Katie Ingle, Administrative and Education Coordinator.

### Agenda

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

### Secretary Report

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

### Treasurer Report

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

### Old Business

Funding Update- Kara informed the board that the five IDNR invoices we had outstanding from closing the Fulton County easement all got paid mid-November. The District also has 2 outstanding CRP invoices with AISWCD and Kara is expecting one of those to be paid soon as they are about 6 months behind on payments. IDOA has not started on our FY26 grant agreement yet but they hope to after they wrap up the No-Till incentive program.

Election Reminder- Katie reminded the board that the 2026 Director Election is happening on the same day as next month's board meeting, January 21<sup>st</sup>, from 7 AM to 5:30 PM at 233 S Soangctaha Rd. Galesburg, IL 61401.

District Cell Phone- Katie let the board know that the quote for the cell phone was going to be more expensive than previously thought. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to still purchase the cell phone. Motion passed 4-0

## New Business

CPP/PFC- Kara sought board approval to amend contract 290 for Terry Cowan to increase his maximum cost share to \$24,663.25 and extend the construction deadline to December 11<sup>th</sup>. Dave Asbury made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley to approve the amendments. Motion passed 4-0. Kara also sought approval to amend contract 321 for Mark Heartlein to increase the maximum cost share to \$6,902.19 and extend the construction deadline to December 11<sup>th</sup>. Dave Asbury made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the amendments. Motion passed 4-0. Kara again sought approval for contract 330 for Keith Webster to increase the maximum cost share to \$7,987.35 after adding a temporary seeding to the contract. Dave Asbury made a motion, seconded by Chris Bewley, to approve the amendments. Motion passed 4-0. Lastly, Kara sought approval to amend contract 345 for Greg Jones to extend the completion deadline to May 19<sup>th</sup> due to weather. AJ Harland made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury, to approve the amendment. Motion passed 4-0.

FY 25 Policy Review- all posted online- A brief discussion was held on the updates to the FOIA policy. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury, to approve the updates for the FY26 policy review. Motion passed 4-0.

Edward Jones CD expiring 12/30/25- Katie explained that they have another CD coming due soon and mentioned that with IDOA money not coming for a while it might be best to withdraw this CD and re-evaluate next month. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to deposit the CD maturing on December 30<sup>th</sup> and put it on the agenda for next month. Motion passed 4-0.

CRP FY26 Plan of Work- Kara explained that the board approved the plan of work last month and no further discussion was needed.

Farm Bureau Auction Donation- Katie reminded the board that they typically donate a \$50 gift certificate for any of our spring sales to the Auction. AJ Harland made a motion, which Chris Bewley seconded, to donate a \$50 gift certificate to our spring sales. Motion passed 4-0.

Local Work Group Survey- giftcard?- Katie explained to the board that to meet the new "Local Work Group" requirements coming down from AISWCD they were going to put out a survey asking people to rank their natural resource concerns, and that people may be more likely to take the survey if there is a chance of winning an incentive prize. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by Dave Asbury, to approve the purchase of a \$20 VISA gift card for the drawing of survey participants. Motion passed 4-0.

No-Till National Conference (1/7/26-1/9/26)- Katie informed the board that a neighbor SWCD had asked if she wanted to attend the No-Till National Conference in St. Louis January 7-9<sup>th</sup>. They had checked with IDOA and this conference and associated expenses would be completely reimbursable using their training funds. Chris Bewley made a motion, seconded by AJ Harland, to approve the conference and two night stay in a hotel. Motion passed 4-0.

Board Meeting: January 21st @ 4:00 PM- The next board meeting will be held on January 21st at 4:00 PM, which is also the day of the 2026 Director Election. (233 S Soangetaha Rd. Galesburg, IL 61401).

### Other Reports

Resource Conservationist- Kara let the board know that she had been in contact with someone regarding the Fishers and Farmers grant and that our most recent application had not been accepted but they were willing to set her up with a meeting with one of the people on the steering committee doing the selecting over zoom. Kara attended the meeting and also let them know that this would be the last time we are applying for the grant. For IDOA, there is only one project left to finish up construction for the year. For FY24 cost share money Knox was allocated \$34,593.01, but total amount spent was actually \$69,287.87 after borrowing from other counties. She also has a streambank application already lined up for next year and the next Kickapoo Creek Watershed Committee will be having a landowner meeting in June to gauge interest in tackling streambank erosion within the Kickapoo Creek watershed specifically. The mitigation funds for North Creek thru IDNR are still in the pipeline, a proposal has been submitted for two streambank projects on the creek and we are currently waiting on an official agreement from IDNR before next steps. In regards to the District's side by side, AC McCartney could not figure out what was drawing power from the battery, and previously Brian Friedrich had volunteered to install a master shut off switch and a trickle charger onto the vehicle so her and Katie would be picking it up and taking it to his shop tomorrow. Lastly, the 4-H Oak Tree Planting application got submitted for the Victoria Cemetery.

Administrative and Education Coordinator- Katie let the board know that she had mostly been focusing on the newsletter as well as Envirothon planning. She has also been trying to help Kara with all of the end-of-year paperwork for projects and financial records. She trained other counties on how to upload STAR forms as part of the CPP process with IDOA, and also got all of the spring sales forms and spreadsheets updated and ready to be released.

Acting District Conservationist- Jennifer Delpierre reminded the board that Kindra will be continuing her acting position for another 120 days. They are also coming up on a lot of deadlines for their federal programs so the offices may be seeing an increase in foot traffic after the holidays.

### Correspondence

Katie presented the monthly Field and Bean and Kara presented a thank-you letter from a student at Extension's last education event they volunteered at.

### Meeting Ending

Dave Asbury made a motion to adjourn the meeting which AJ Harland seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Submitted by: Katie Angle

Date: 1-21-26

Approved by: Chris Asbury

Date: 1-21-26