



211 N. Appleton Road

Belvidere, IL 6108

815-544-3465 ext. 3

Boone County SWCD Board

Present

Bill Hall.....Chairman

Jack Ratcliffe.....Secretary/Treasurer

Mike Frank.....Vice-Chairman

Todd Aves.....Director

Absent

Aaron Brahmstedt.....Director

Attendees

Heather VanTilburg.....SWCD

Ashley Barry.....IDOA

Josh Franks.....NRCS

Luke Trexler.....NRCS

Griffin Smith.....NRCS

Madison Koopman.....Avalon

Colton Asche.....NRCS

SWCD Meeting 12/11/2024

Bill Hall called the meeting to order at 8:07 A.M.

Minutes

The November meeting minutes were approved by Todd Aves and seconded by Jack Ratcliffe.

Public Comment

No public comment given.

Finance Report

Heather VanTilburg gave the finance report. Current funds are \$246,135.69 in Midland checking account and \$15,109.68 in Midland savings. The Illinois Funds account is at \$253,013.14. Ms. VanTilburg made comments about a couple of financial items; the last two payments from the county for 2024 were received last month, the county also requested a list of board members who need to file an economic interest statement by May 1st. Ms. VanTilburg noted that the AFR has been completed, and SAM account renewal has been submitted. In a motion made by Mike Frank and seconded by Todd Aves the report was approved.

Timesheets

Jack Ratcliffe approved the timesheets and mileage report.

Reports

Josh Franks gave the NRCS report. A new CR is likely as we move into new administration, with an extension on the Farm Bill also possible rather than an expired bill. CRP is suspended. A new soil con will start in Rockford. That will put this district group into full staffing based on NRCS' model.

Heather VanTilburg gave the SWCD report. Ms. VanTilburg went over highlights from Winter Training sessions, there was discussion about the IRA agreement likely to happen between NRCS and AISWCD concerning local work groups and watershed planning. Ms. VanTilburg gave an overview of updates from IDOA; there will be a new RCPP project rolling out which IDOA will collect applications and districts will help with deliverables. Ms. VanTilburg is planning to attend a farm business summit at Kishwaukee College on December 17th to help at the AISWCD booth and be available for questions/discussions with farmers.

Ms. VanTilburg gave a brief overview of NRIs from last month, there were 4 letters completed. She also went over SESC, inspections are slowing down for the year, but a few new projects are likely to come through very soon for the City of Belvidere. Ms. VanTilburg went on to report about IDOA items; election notices have been posted in the office, at the county building, on the district's website and with the Boone County Journal. Ms. VanTilburg noted that there was a few hundred dollars left in FY23 funds for PFC that will get transferred out before the deadline. She will also be working on reports for Vegetative Filter Strips due by the end of January.

Ms. VanTilburg wrapped up her report with comments on the spring fish and tree sale. Sale information will be posted to the website first, then she will work on getting a Facebook post ready and forms to include with the spring newsletter.

Bill Hall asked if anyone had anything else to add, Mike Frank noted that the sign for MCCA was looking a bit run down and asked if we could investigate replacing it. Ms. VanTilburg said she would work on getting some pricing together to get a new sign.

Adjournment

There was a motion to adjourn made by Todd Aves and seconded by Mike Frank.