

**BUREAU COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

November 1, 2016

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mark Miller, Rod Grunloh, Gaile Arnold, Mike Thacker

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Mike Nelson

DISTRICT PERSONNEL PRESENT: Kevin Bennett, ARC and Marianne Grey, CA

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT: Erika Turner, DC

Call to Order: At 8:20 a.m. Chairman Mark Miller called the meeting to order.

Guests: None

Approval of Minutes: Rod made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2016 meeting. Gaile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Bills: Gaile made a motion to approve the bills. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Approval of Timesheets: Gaile made a motion to approve the timesheets. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: We are waiting on funding to be distributed to the Districts. The State must release the funds by December 31, 2016.

Natural Areas: Whitver Farm is looking good. A lot of invasive brush has been removed from the CRP areas.

Education: No report.

Personnel: Kevin reported that Eric is doing good work and will continue on staff through November.

CORRESPONDENCE: Letters from Dept. of Ag about how funds will be distributed to the Districts and LUCs. Notification of next LUC 2 meeting to be held November 28th. Letter from IDNR CREP office regarding easements that need to be monitored by the District in 2017.

BUSINESS

CPP: No report. No funding has been released yet.

Zonings: Kevin presented 5 NRI zoning requests for this month. Rod made a motion to approve the reports. Gaile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Whitver Farm: There are several large patches of invasive shrubs growing in the CRP ground that need to be removed. Some areas are too dense to attempt to remove by hand. Rod asked how the condition of the property got to this point. Kevin explained that it is due to lack of maintenance/management over the years. A GeoBoy would be an ideal option to clear the autumn olive and honeysuckle. Kevin found a contractor in Eureka who has a GeoBoy and is willing to do the work. His fee is \$2,800/day plus \$300 trucking expense. He estimates he can clear an average of 8 acres per day. Rod made a motion to hire the GeoBoy for at least one day, and maybe two, if needed, to complete the work.

Equipment Purchase: No report.

Equipment Sale: It was agreed that we will sell the PlotMaster. Staff will look into any legal requirements with regard to the sale.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Other Business: Rod asked about the possibility of the District doing prescribed burns for interested landowners. Staff will look into this. Mark reported that he had received a letter from the Chairman of the Henry County SWCD about the possibility of sharing an employee. It was agreed that this would not likely be feasible at this time.

Public Comments: None

Agenda items for next meeting:

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, December 6, 2016 at the USDA Service Center.

Adjournment: At 9:10 a.m. Gaile made a motion to adjourn. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Kevin Bennett and Marianne Grey