

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

July 5, 2016

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

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

DISTRICT PERSONNEL PRESENT: Kevin Bennett, ARC

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT: Erika Turner, DC

Call to Order: At 8:22 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 June 7, 2016 meeting. Gaile seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: Kevin reported that the legislature and Governor had recently agreed on a 6-month state budget. The bill includes funding for SWCDs at \$2.8 million for CPP and \$2.2 million for operations. It is not known when these funds will be distributed.

Natural Areas: Josh has been working at the various natural areas 12 hours/week. Kevin noted that much of the work can be done alone but several tasks/projects require him to be on site as well for safety and efficiency purposes.

Education: 4-H Ag Fair will be on July 21st. Staff will be judges again this year.

Personnel: No report.

CORRESPONDENCE: An email from the IL Department of Labor notifying the District that it needs to adopt a Prevailing Wage Ordinance for 2016. Letter from AISWCD offering a NRCS Assistance Contract to the District. An email/letter from Steve Stierwalt, a director from Champaign County, announcing his candidacy for

president of AISWCD and asking for the support of each District. Letter from Terry Davis, a director from Warren County, encouraging every district to attend Summer Conference and the annual meeting in Springfield. The board agreed that BCSWCD should be represented. No directors are able to attend. Kevin offered to go and will report back to the board at the August meeting with what came of the meeting.

BUSINESS

CPP: No report.

Zonings: Kevin presented 3 NRI zoning requests for this month. Two of them are for re-zones, the other is seeking a variation to construct a storage building closer to the road than where the house sits. The District has no concerns with these. Gaile made a motion to approve the reports. Mike N. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Whitver Farm: Kevin is continuing his research into the feasibility of getting prairie chickens at Whitver. He reported that he has been in contact with staff from The Nature Conservancy and the Missouri Department of Conservation who are working with the birds at Dunn Ranch in northern MO. Staff has also looked into the possibility of purchasing the eggs and raising the chicks. The supplier is out of stock now but should have more after September.

Capital Projects at Warnecke: There was discussion on plans for pavilions at Warnecke. Mark reported that a 21 x 24 carport-type structure starts at \$2,000 (no base and uninstalled). The base could be concrete or crushed rock. Rod suggested that this could be an Eagle Scout project. It was agreed that the District should plan to put up 2 or 3 of these structures. Mark said that he will get quotes.

Prevailing Wage Ordinance: Kevin presented the District's Prevailing Wage Ordinance for 2016. Per the IL Department of Labor, the rates have not changed from 2015. Gaile made a motion to adopt the ordinance. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Rod made a motion to go into executive session. Gaile seconded the motion. Motion carried. Staff left the conference room and the board went into executive session at 9:02 a.m. Gaile then made a motion to come out of executive session. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried. The board returned to the regular meeting at 9:26 a.m.

Gaile made a motion to give both Kevin and Marianne a 4% salary increase for FY17. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Other Business: None

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Public Comments: None

Agenda items for next meeting: Equipment purchase

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at 8:15 a.m. on Tuesday, August 2, 2016 at the USDA Service Center.

Adjournment: At 9:32 a.m. Gaile made a motion to adjourn. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Kevin Bennett and Marianne Grey