

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

August 9, 2016

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mark Miller, Rod Grunloh, Gaile Arnold

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Mike Nelson, Mike Thacker

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

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT: Erika Turner, DC

Call to Order: At 8:27 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. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: Kevin reported that we are still waiting to hear from the Governor's office and the Department of Ag when and how the \$2.8 million for CPP and \$2.2 million for operations will be distributed to the Districts.

Natural Areas: Some discussion on a call the office received regarding tree trimming along the road by Walnut Grove Woodland.

Education: No report.

Personnel: No report.

CORRESPONDENCE: Invitation to participate in the LICA Expo at Bonnucci Farms on August 30th. Letter from IDNR CREP office requesting districts that hold easements to continuing monitoring them.

BUSINESS

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

Zonings: Kevin presented 5 NRI zoning requests for this month. Two of them are for re-zones, the other is seeking a variations. There was discussion on the rezone request from Jackson Salvage for Agriculture to commercial. Rod noted that this property was owned by Mr. Steve Bonnucci. There are some concerns by board and staff that a salvage operation could result in impacts to soil and water resources from oil, batteries, other chemicals, etc. Kevin will include these concerns in the letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals. The District has no concerns with the other requests. Gaile made a motion to approve the reports. Rod 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 had a discussion with staff from IDNR's CREP office who have experience working with the chickens. The suggested we send a letter with more detailed information to their chief who could draft an opinion letter on the issue.

Capital Projects at Warnecke: Mark presented information from American Steel on three car port/pavilions. It was agreed that all three should be done at the same time this fall. It was also agreed that we should go with green-roofed structures to match the existing shed. Concrete pads will be poured rather than gravel. Gaile made a motion to purchase the three structures and to get bids for the concrete bases, not to exceed a total of \$10,000. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Equipment Purchase: No report.

Prescribed Fire Training: Kevin asked the Board for permission to pursue additional prescribed fire training through the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG). Kevin reported that the majority of the training and testing is done online at minimal cost. The Board encouraged him to complete the training.

Filter Strip Certification: Staff presented a Vegetative Filter Strip Certification for Mr. James Mathew. Rod made a motion to approve the certification. Gaile seconded. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Other Business: None

Public Comments: None

Agenda items for next meeting: Nothing new.

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

Adjournment: At 9:21 a.m. Gaile made a motion to adjourn. Rod seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Submitted by: Kevin Bennett and Marianne Grey