



## Conserving Our Land Today for Tomorrow

4833 Owen Center Road · Rockford, IL 61101-6007  
(815) 965-2392, Ext 3 · [www.winnebagoswcd.org](http://www.winnebagoswcd.org)

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Board Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 5, 2024  
District Office

### WCSWCD DIRECTORS PRESENT

Paul Beuth  
Jim Morrison  
Justin Krohn  
Mike Leick

### WCSWCD DIRECTORS ABSENT

Larry McPheron

### ASSOCIATES PRESENT

Harlan Tipton

### ASSOCIATES ABSENT

Judy Barnard  
Dwayne Proctor  
Dave Mullen

### GUESTS PRESENT

None

### SWCD STAFF PRESENT

Melisa Long  
Dennis Anthony  
Katie Peterson

### NRCS STAFF PRESENT

Colton Asche  
Josh Franks  
Luke Trexler

### IDOA STAFF PRESENT

Hunter Cejka

### NGRREC STAFF PRESENT

Claudia Pighetti

### PCM STAFF PRESENT

None

### PF STAFF PRESENT

Drake Propson

### IDOA STAFF PRESENT

Hunter Cejka

### CALL TO ORDER

8:04 a.m. – Paul Beuth called the meeting to order.

### FORMATION OF THE BOARD

*Jim Morrison made a motion for Justin Krohn – Chairman, Paul Beuth – Vice Chairman, Jim Morrison – Secretary/Treasurer. Paul Beuth seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### CONSENT AGENDA

minutes, correspondence, monthly transactions

New Director zoom training – 3/12 at 6:00 p.m. (also open to existing Directors).

*Jim Morrison made a motion to accept the consent agenda, Paul Beuth seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

## REPORTS

### Staff Reports

Melisa Long - Administrative Coordinator – (highlighted written report)

- monthly financial management, LUC financials
- NRCS Admin – CSP contract renewal notification letters, approved payment documentation, payment reviews & entered a new application
- tree sale/fish sale – processed orders, assisted customers & created community calendar posts
- Envirothon – event planning, rotation schedule, agenda created, completed financial and sponsor requests
- general election – press release created & posted, completed documentation forms to be sent to IDOA
- training/meetings: USDA Anti-Harassment training, attended LUC16 meeting
- compiled Civil Rights QAR & EEO Statement info. for NRCS reporting
- assisted Carroll County SWCD – QB questions
- Horizons – winter issue completed & emailed to distribution list & posted online

Katie Peterson - Resource Conservationist - (highlighted written report)

- PFC – FY23 - \$33,487.87 - deadline - December 24
  - Morris - waterway, Bortoli - waterway, Teeters - rain garden, Metz - pollinator
  - Johnston pollinator wrapped up
  - spring flier with application deadline April 12
- seed sales
- plat review: final plat of Southgate Plaza subdivision (3.5 ac)
- CRP: Continuous sign-up deadline - July 31, General sign-up deadline - March 29, conservation plans completed
- education outreach: CRP web tool focus group, planning agriculture workshop and preparing for pollinator palooza, youth groundwater festival, Envirothon and erosion control workshop
- training: Arc Pro virtual training and Aglearn - anti-harassment & information security awareness

Report #	Date	Location	Request	Reason	Acres	Report
24-26	1/30/2024	6445 E State St, Rockford	SUP	Demo & Restaurant	1.81	NRI
24-27	2/1/2024	1505/1507 Kishwaukee St, Rockford	SUP	Outdoor Storage	3.11	RC
24-28	2/6/2024	6800 Forest Hills Rd & 15XX E Riverside Blvd, Loves Park	SUP	In/outdoor storage	10.81	NRI
24-29	2/20/2024	3013 W Rockton Rd., County	SUP	Vacation/wedding venue	10	NIL

Dennis Anthony - Executive Director/Soil Scientist – (highlighted written report)

- workshop planning – March 7 – NIU Rockford campus, about 110 registered from 24 companies + 5 Districts
- County agreement: Conger Road Solar – set to start in the Spring (March); new: solar project north of Pecatonica – application received, waiting on payment
- Conservation Cropping Seminar – Earth Optics, Marion Calmer, strip till & increasing kernel wait, farmer panel
- Watershed Stewardship for Leaders mtg – February 1<sup>st</sup> – presented at final seminar for that program
- Rock River/Pierce Lake TMDL Draft Phase 3 report – provided comments by February 16<sup>th</sup> deadline
- Rock River Watershed Group – NARP – data presentation from Geosyntec, additional data collection this summer
- LUC meeting – Feb 22<sup>nd</sup> – reviewed discussion items from that meeting
- scholarships - 12 applicants for the LUC scholarship, uploaded and sent to committee, filled out committee/selection forms

*Justin Krohn made a motion to approve the staff reports presented, Mike Leick seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

## Partner Reports

- NRCS – Josh Franks, District Conservationist
  - staffing update, RCPP program, EQIP & CSP deadlines
- PCM – no report
- IDOA – Hunter Cjeka, Conservation Planner
  - attending Soil Health Week
- NRREC – Claudia Pighetti
  - updated on activities
- PF – Drake Propson
  - winter webinar series available on PF website

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

### USDA Lease

- has been reviewed, signed and returned
- 5-year term to December 31, 2028 - \$74,512.20 (previously - \$65,823), effective March 1

### AISWCD Staffing Plan

- six new positions to assist with resolutions, education, outreach, Soil Health week, FB posts, PR, HR, (in relation to capacity building program) and Director acquisition, to be voted at quarterly board, LUC Rep. will be reaching out to District Chairman

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### FY24 Budget Amendments

- roof income & expense, IDOA funding & corresponding AISWCD dues, USDA lease and payroll
- revised budget with a net income of \$13,330

*Paul Beuth made a motion to approve the budget amendments as presented, Jim Morrison seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### PFC Component List

*Jim Morrison made a motion to approve the presented PFC Practice Component List for FY24, Mike Leick seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### Zoning Flow Chart

- Katie Peterson created flow chart to aid in the application process

*Jim Morrison made a motion to adopt the flow chart to be included in the NRI application packet to be sent to the zoning offices and included in zoning packets, Mike Leick seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

### March – June Board Meeting Schedule

- upcoming meetings, 4/2, 5/29 & 6/25

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, April 2 at 8:00 a.m.

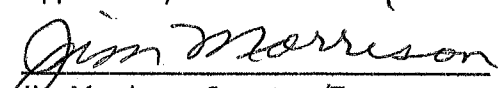
*Paul Beuth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 a.m., Mike Leick seconded. Motion passed by unanimous vote.*

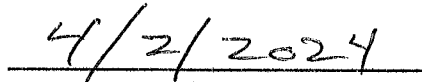
**ADJOURNMENT** – 9:31 a.m.

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Minutes taken & submitted by:  
Melisa Long, Administrative Coordinator

Approved by:

  
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Jim Morrison – Secretary/Treasurer

  
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Date