

Champaign County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes  
January 15, 2025 @ 8:30 am

Steve Stierwalt, Joe Rothermel, Lennie Heiser (remote), Eric Suits, Bruce Stickers, Bruce Henrikson, Natalie Sutton, Grant Knepp

**Agenda Review** - Steve calls meeting to order at 8:40 AM. Minutes reviewed. Joe moves to accept December 17 meeting minutes, Lennie

**Minutes**— review and approve the minutes of the December 17, 2024 board meetings.

**Financial Reports** - Expense reports and financials

Grant presented financials. Eric moves to place financials on file, Joe seconds. Motion carries

**Reports-**

Bruce S. gave report on RC&D and wetlands. He hasn't been able to get in contact with Kenny Buhr about updating our sign. Feeling the loss of the PF Biologist. Gave a small note that *eventually* will move closer to family (likely 3-4 years out).

Bruce Henrikson gave the STAR report. Verification has gone very well. Producer payments have been sent out. IDOA CP's are helping conduct verification. Talks about how we can streamline the process to not only make it easier for participants, but the local staff who are assisting with getting the information processed. Another verification process will begin in March.

**Old Business/Updates and Announcements**

Benjamin Edwards Account is being set up. All documents needed from Wells Fargo have been submitted.

Annual Meeting Staff gave an update on planning progress. Menu needs to be selected, board has no input. Natalie is seeking permission for advertisement

Retirement Plan- Expected to have accounts set up by next board meeting.

**New Business**

TA Grant Update - We have been awarded the 2024 grant of \$104k. This will help with staff salary, STAR, and outreach.

Oak Tree Planting Project - Dale mentioned we still need more counties to sign up for this, board would like to pursue. Both Parkland and St. Joe have potential places for this (primarily Parkland).

Suggested planting a tree or two by the parking lot at the St. Joe wetland. Also suggested running contributions through the Foundation at the annual meeting.

New RCPP - Natalie S spoke on the Wabash River RCPP - She is meeting with Megan Baskerville this afternoon. Potentially could get marketing materials to use at the annual meeting coming up.

AISWCD Subcontracting - Local work groups will need assistance from local SWCD staff which will be subcontracted out, Natalie S is looking to apply for a 'Resource Planning Specialist' position, but wanted to ensure the board was OK with taking on additional duties.

Executive Session - Joe Moves we go into executive session, Eric seconds, motion carries.

**Reports, in addition to employee or partner written reports if necessary**

**Committees, Groups, Grants, & Projects – see next page**

Executive Session

**Next Meeting-** 2/26 at 8:30 AM tentative

**Adjourn** - Eric moves to adjourn at 10:10 AM, Joe seconds. Meeting adjourned.