**Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting**

The Board of Directors of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District met for their monthly meeting on January 24th, 2024 at 8:00 a.m. at the Breese USDA Building.

Chairman, Tim Wesselmann, called the meeting to order at 8:07 a.m.

Those present for the meeting were:

**Clinton County SWCD Directors:**

TimWesselmann

Cliff Schuette

Clinton Michael

**Clinton County SWCD Associate Director(s): NA**

**Clinton County SWCD Staff:**

Executive Director: Emily Gaddis

Resource Conservationist: Sarah Mendoun

**NRCS: Soil Conservationist:** Landen Harris

Absent from the meeting: Directors: Paul Hustedde and Brent Kalmer, Associate Director: Ray Krausz, Ken Knolhoff, Survey Aide: Ryan Vogt, District Conservationist: Gary Gaubatz

Cliff Schuette made a motion to approve the minutes for December’s regular meeting and Clinton Michael seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Treasurer’s reports and bills were reviewed. Clinton Michael made a motion to approve financials, and Cliff Schuette seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE (NRCS) REPORT:** Harris provided an update on NRCS activities, deadlines, schedules, etc. Cliff Schuette inquired re: funds and contracts stability for cost share with new changes at the federal government. Harris indicated that contracts are obligated for the duration of the contract. CCSWCD Board, staff and NRCS came to an agreement that they would make a goal of canvassing the county for new cost-share participants to provided more targeted outreach with a board member, NRCS and a CCSWCD staff working together on these events.

**ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES REPORT:** Gaddis went over the report and discussed the attached activities.

**RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT:** Mendoun went over the report and discussed the attached activities.

**SURVEY AIDE REPORT**: Staff distributed the report, and the board reviewed the attached activities.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. AFR: Gaddis provided an update that Sam Phillips was still working on the report, but it will be complete and ready for signature before the extension due date. The board discussed that this is typically the timeline.
2. GTSB CD Withdrawals: Gaddis provided an update that two CDs that matured in January were withdrawn to aggregate funds for the new drill. The CD ~13k will be withdrawn in early February to secure the necessary funds for the new drill. The remaining CDs will be renewed to continue to earn interest for CCSWCD. The board discussed putting additional funds in CDs to earn more interest as there is concern about funding due to NACD, NRCS and IDOA grants being reduced or paused. Gaddis agreed to do a financial analysis and suggest what funds could be put in additional CDs after payroll projections were considered.
3. COLA 2025 2.5%: Gaddis provided an update for the cost-of-living adjustment for RC and AC as per contracts and the board approved the increase with pay retroactive to January 1st of 2025. Cliff Schuette made a motion to approve the cost-of-living adjustment, and Clinton Michael seconded the motion. Motion carried.
4. NRCS Admin Assistance Grant Agreement: Gaddis provided an update that the district could begin billing the admin agreement through contract extension. The board agreed that the RC would be the primary responsible party, and the AC would be the secondary. Cliff Schuette made a motion to extend the agreement, and Clinton Michael seconded the motion.
5. Annual Report: Gaddis provided an update that the annual report is in progress. She and Mendoun will be completing for the election to showcase CCSWCD essential conservation work.
6. Spring Fish Sale 3/13/25 @ 12pm and pricing: Gaddis reviewed the changes in pricing and fish sizes. Clinton Michael made a motion to approve prices and Cliff Schuette seconded the motion.
7. The Clinton County SWCD Board went into executive session for personnel- with Cliff Schuette making a motion to enter closed session at 10:32 and Clinton Micheal seconding the motion. The board resumed regular session at 10:53 with Cliff Schuette making the motion and Clinton Michael seconding the motion.

Schuette made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:53 a.m. and Clinton Michael seconded the motion. Motion carried. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 11th at 5:30 p.m. at the Breese USDA Service Center.

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**Brent Kalmer, Secretary**