

***Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District  
Board Meeting Minutes – April 12, 2007***

The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District met April 12, 2007 at the SWCD/NRCS office. Directors present included Mac Garrett, Roger Meyer, Steve McConnaughay and Duane Snow. Rachel Snow, Guest; Evelyn Bartley, Ed Gerstenecker, Jack Holt and Ray Searby, Associate Directors; Tony Antonacci, District Conservationist; Burke Davies, Resource Conservationist and Debbie Holsapple, Administrative Coordinator were also in attendance. Board member Ken Heinzmann was absent.

The secretary-treasurer called the meeting to order at 7:37 p.m. Mac Garrett motioned to approve the agenda as mailed. Duane Snow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the March minutes, employee time sheets and treasurer's reports. The March treasurer report reflected the following balances – \$7069.24 on deposit in the district's operations account at Marion County Savings; \$69912.69 on deposit in the Illinois Funds investment account; \$17527.61 on deposit in the Illinois Funds CPP program account; \$25.00 in the petty cash fund, \$32818.59 on deposit in the Illinois Funds farm investment account and \$64000.00 in the Peoples National Bank. Duane Snow motioned to approve the minutes, treasurer's reports and employee time sheets as presented. Mac Garrett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board chairman arrived at 7:42 p.m. and assumed control of the meeting.

Burke Davies and Debbie Holsapple reported that each had been working on different components of the long range plan. Their combined efforts will be presented at the next board meeting.

Burke Davies reported that the Hesser hearing was held but he had not received any information regarding the outcome. He did not have to appear at the meeting.

Debbie Holsapple reported she had called the AC who takes the forestry committee minutes and confirmed the Illinois Forestry Association donation amount for the district. Since the district would be considered a non-profit, the amount would be \$50. Mac Garrett motioned to pay \$50 for dues to the IFA. Steve McConnaughay seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the FOIA policy with changes as recommended by the Attorney General office and completed by the district employees. Duane Snow motioned to approve the policy as presented. Mac Garrett seconded the motion. Motion carried

Debbie Holsapple reported that a meeting to review statewide disability quotes would be held in Springfield on Monday, April 16 after the Benefit Choice Seminar.

Burke Davies reported on Conservation Practices Program changes. Davies questioned if the board would like to increase payments for nutrient management plans. Duane Snow motioned to change the payment on nutrient management plans to \$3.00 per acre for the plan and \$7.00 per acre for implementation.

The board reviewed the associate director listing from 2006. Associate directors Bartley, Gerstenecker, Holt and Searby who were present at the meeting indicated they would like to continue in their appointed positions. Steve McConnaughay motioned to name Evelyn Bartley, Randy Comer, Danny Fark, Steven Donoho, Ed Gerstenecker, Jack Holt, Rob Jones and Ray Searby as associate directors for 2007. Mac Garrett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board chairman reported his resignation from the Post Oak Flats RC&D. He will talk with John Schuler before the next meeting to discuss arrangements for his replacement. Ray Searby indicated that he might be interested in serving.

Duane Snow motioned to approve Burke Davies' attendance at two area training sessions. Steve McConnaughay seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Duane Snow motioned to pay \$1168 to Turner-Vermont Agency for the director's and officer's liability insurance premium. Mac Garrett seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Debbie Holsapple reviewed her April 2007 administrator report as mailed. Steve McConnaughay motioned to pay IAAP dues of \$80 and \$15 and to pay Holsapple \$128.62 for mileage expenses. Duane Snow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Burke Davies reviewed his written report as presented. Mac Garrett motioned to pay Davies \$75.66 for mileage expenses. Duane Snow seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tony Antonacci provided a verbal report. Antonacci plans to mail a written report sometime next week. USDA has completed its 5<sup>th</sup> ranking period. 12 new EQIP contacts were accepted and 3 previously approved WHIP contracts were cancelled due to funding cuts. The Wetlands Reserve Program will be having a new signup for FY08. Antonacci reported on the progress of the soil survey update and his recent visit to the tax assessor's office. He also reported on changes in the CRP program including the quail habitat buffet and the special CRP signup for a new continuous practice, CP 38 which addresses wildlife needs. The signup for this practice is planned for August, 2007. Antonacci provided information on a project that Quail Unlimited and IDNR biologist Steve Kern have that will provide native grass seed for 200 acres and Plateau for approximately 120 acres. Antonacci passed out information on LEAMS for the board to review.

Mac Garrett motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Steve McConnaughay seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next board meeting will be May 10, 2007 at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve McConnaughay  
Secretary-Treasurer