

***Marion County Soil & Water Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2008***

The Marion County Soil and Water Conservation District met December 11, 2008 at the SWCD/NRCS office. Directors present included Tom Beyers, Steve McConnaughay and Duane Snow. Ray Searby, Associate Director; Tony Antonacci, District Conservationist; Burke Davies, Resource Conservationist, Debbie Holsapple, Administrative Coordinator and Ag Literacy Coordinator Meggan Hiestand were also in attendance. Chairman Ken Heinzmann and Director Steve Jones were absent.

The vice-chairman called the meeting to order at 6:48 p.m. Ag Literacy Coordinator Meggan Hiestand provided a report of her activities this fall. Hiestand invited attendees to participate in the Progressive Agriculture Safety Day to be held on April 15 at the Marion County Fairgrounds. She needs approximately 100 volunteers to properly conduct the event. Hiestand left the meeting after her presentation at 6:59 p.m.

Tom Beyers motioned to approve the agenda as mailed. Steve McConnaughay seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the November minutes. Tom Beyers motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Steve McConnaughay seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The board then reviewed the November treasurer's report and employee time sheets. The November treasurer report reflected the following balances – \$3916.05 on deposit in the district's operations account at Marion County Savings; \$59231.05 on deposit in the Illinois Funds investment account; \$21762.28 on deposit in the Illinois Funds CPP program account; \$25.00 in the petty cash fund and \$34629.12 on deposit in the Illinois Funds farm investment account. Steve McConnaughay motioned to approve the treasurer report and employee timesheets. Tom Beyers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Debbie Holsapple reported the first IDA allocation has been received. Senate bill 1103 was signed by the Governor and provided restoration of 3.5 million to the SWCD budgets.

The board briefly discussed the local working group meeting held on November 8th.

Burke Davies provided a report on the Conservation Practice Program. Steve McConnaughay motioned to tentatively approve a contract with Donald Blomberg. Tom Beyers abstained from the motion so the vice-chairman seconded the motion. Motion carried with Beyers abstaining.

The board discussed the annual meeting awards. Steve McConnaughay motioned to name the following award winners:

Conservation Farm Family – Bill and Erma Borcharding
Cooperator of the Year – Don and Melissa Wollin
Teacher of the Year – Vivian Creed
Friend of Conservation Award – John O. Jones
Special Recognition - Kaskaskia College and Kent Sickmeyer

Tom Beyers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ray Searby reported that the November and December Post Oak Flat meetings have been cancelled. Searby also reported he is working with Jim Williams, Chairman of the Marion County Board to allow the SWCD to present a proposal for funding.

District Conservationist Tony Antonacci provided a verbal report due to the EQIP audit. Antonacci reported the audit covered over 155,000 contracts with an estimated \$2.8 billion in costs. Antonacci reported the US Army Corp is holding a public comment hearing for work completed near Forbes Lake. Antonacci also provided details on a December 9th bidding process for Forbes State Park.

Burke Davies provided his report as attached. The board discussed the sale of the Truax drill. Tom Beyers motioned to allow Resource Conservationist Burke Davies to offer the drill and extra parts for a starting sale price of \$10,000 with a bottom price of \$8000. Any offers under \$8000 will need board approval. Steve McConnaughay seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Debbie Holsapple provided her report as attached. A discussion about interest on the Illinois Funds accounts was held and Holsapple will bring rate quotes to the next meeting. Holsapple also reported on the AISWCD quarterly board meeting and distributed handouts from the meetings.

Steve McConnaughay motioned to pay IDA \$50 for a nursery dealer license and \$239 for the 2009 Quickbooks Payroll Service. Tom Beyers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve McConnaughay motioned to pay \$50 for Davies to attend the Corn Classic and \$130 for his attendance at the Crop Management Workshop. Tom Beyers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Steve McConnaughay to pay Burke Davies \$34 reimbursement for Country Bob's sampler packs, \$103.03 in ICCI administration, \$198.80 for mileage expenses and to pay Debbie Holsapple \$293.38 for mileage expenses. Tom Beyers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Tom Beyers motioned to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Steve McConnaughay seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The next board meeting will be held on January 8, 2009 at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room of the USDA service center.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve McConnaughay
Secretary-Treasurer