

**MINUTES  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
February 6, 2024**

CALLED TO ORDER by Critchell Judd, at 6:04 p.m., 1648 S. Eastwood Dr., Woodstock, IL.

**MLCSWCD DIRECTORS PRESENT**

Critchell Judd  
Andrea Pracht (arrived 6:08 pm/left 7:19pm)  
Ken Book  
Dean Farr  
Bob Haraden (Via Phone -Childcare/left 7:19 pm)

**SWCD STAFF PRESENT**

Spring Duffey  
Ryan Bieber

**NRCS STAFF PRESENT**

None

**ASSOCIATES PRESENT**

None

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Shelly Ray (IDOA)  
Michelle Aavang (U of I Extension)  
Jessi Vonhelms (4-H)  
Val Kushna (4-H)  
Michelle Markangelo (4-H)  
Matthew Markangelo (4-H)

**CHANGES (ADDITIONS) TO AGENDA:**

- “Ag Expo Request” added to “Correspondence.”
- “(Presentation) Proposal from 4-H Pollinators SPIN Club” moved after “Staff Reports/Time Sheet Approval.”
- “Public Participation” moved after “(Presentation) Proposal from 4-H Pollinators SPIN Club.”
- “Executive Session” moved after “Public Participation.”
- Remaining “New Business” items moved after “Executive Session.”

**MINUTES OF THE January 2, 2024, BOARD MEETING**

The Minutes of the January 2, 2024, Board Meeting were reviewed. Dean Farr moved to approve the minutes. Andrea Pracht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**BUDGET ANALYSIS**

We are seven months into our FY2024 fiscal year, the totals are as follows: 47.9% of budgeted income and 57.9% of budgeted expenses.

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

The Treasurer’s Report was reviewed. Ken Book moved to approve the Treasurer’s report. Dean Farr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**STAFF REPORTS/TIME SHEET APPROVAL**

Staff Reports were reviewed. Dean Farr moved that the Staff Reports and Time Sheets be accepted. Andrea Pracht seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. **(Presentation) Proposal from 4-H Pollinators SPIN Club:** Jessi Vonhelms and Matthew Markangelo presented a proposal to move the 4-H bee hives to our Dean Street site and to utilize our building for their Sunday afternoon club meetings.

Andrea Pracht moved to approve the use of the SWCD Dean Street property by the 4-H Pollinators SPIN Club, including meetings on Sundays, storage, and location of hives per coordination with Spring Duffey and Ryan Bieber. Bob Haraden seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

Shelly Ray, IDOA Regional Representative highlighted items from the latest IDOA Bureau Report. She indicated that there will no longer be a payment cap for cover crops or no-till / strip-till practices. Additionally, those two practices will not require ranking and will be immediately funded if funding is available, and they meet the eligibility requirements. Shelly also indicated that the grant agreements have been sent to the Comptroller's Office, all election materials are due to IDOA by April 1<sup>st</sup>, and there will be a Regional Staff meeting in DeKalb on February 28, 2024.

Andrea Pracht highlighted two meetings she recently attended, the State's NLRS meeting and Kane-DuPage SWCD's Dewatering Seminar. She indicated that at the end of the Dewatering Seminar, Kane-DuPage SWCD staff highlighted cost-share availability, an overview of the district, district programming and funding/donation needs for Envirothon.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

- A. **Employee Reviews and Compensation:**

Ken Book moved to go into executive session for the purposes of employee reviews, at 6:47 PM. Dean Farr seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with Critchell Judd, Andrea Pracht, Dean Farr, Ken Book, and Bob Haraden voting in favor and the motion carried.

Andrea Pracht moved to come out of executive session at 7:11 PM. Dean Farr seconded the motion. A voice vote was taken with Critchell Judd, Andrea Pracht, Dean Farr, Ken Book, and Bob Haraden voting in favor and the motion carried.

Bob Haraden moved to approve the raises discussed in Executive Session. Ken Book seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**NEW BUSINESS (CONTINUED):**

- B. **AFR Approval and Vote Form:** The AFR compiled by Foster's Tax and Accounting, LLC, was reviewed. Andrea Pracht moved to approve the AFR. Bob Haraden seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ken Book will sign and notarized the 2/3 Majority Vote form and return it to Spring Duffey.
- C. **State and Local Envirothon Donations:** Prior donation amounts were reviewed. Ken Book moved to donate \$100.00 to the Illinois Envirothon Competition and \$250.00 to the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon Competition. Dean Farr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## CORRESPONDENCE

- **AISWCD's "Staff Expansion Special Session Letter"**: The letter and subsequent informational meeting was discussed, including concerns regarding continued funding for the proposed positions. Critchell Judd will prepare a letter voicing our concerns and send it to the AISWCD Board of Directors.
- **Ag Expo**: Dan Volkers, McHenry County Farm Bureau asked if we would present at their Ag Expo on April 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Our Tree Sale is the same week and staff would need assistance to participate. Critchell Judd indicated that he would be able to help present and suggested Dave Brandt be contacted to help. Spring Duffey will let Dan Volkers know that we will present and work out the details with our presenters.

## FOIA REQUESTS

- A. Michael Remolona – Request for Solar Farm NRI Applicants (received 1/24/2024, fulfilled 1/24/2024)

**NATURAL RESOURCE INFORMATION REPORTS:** None

## OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **District Election**: Our election will be held on February 15, 2024, from 7:00 am till 5:00 pm, at the district office. Ken Book, Dean Farr, and Critchell Judd have turned in their petitions and will be on the ballot. Ryan Bieber will be assisted by Critchell Judd and Dean Farr with manning the election site.
- B. **Sexual Harassment Training**: Spring Duffey will send a link to the state's training for directors to accomplish on their own time. Staff have all completed the training.
- C. **Website Redesign**: Spring Duffey and Becky Hoag have been going through the old site determining what should be included within the new site. Spring Duffey has also noted what she likes/dislikes about North Cook SWCD's and Kane-DuPage SWCD's sites. Later in February, Becky Hoag will begin creating the new site and allow review by the district prior to going live.

## ADJOURNMENT

Ken Book moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m. Dean Farr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ken Book, Secretary