

BUREAU COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 2, 2024

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mike Thacker, Bill Gebeck, Todd Sears, Rod Grunloh

DIRECTORS ABSENT: Jim May

DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT: Becca Taylor - RC, Ashley Aber - AC

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT: James Morgan – SC, Aaron Fishburn – IDOA Planner

Call to Order: Mike Thacker called the meeting to order at 8:15a.m.

Guests: None.

Approval of Minutes: Todd Sears made a motion to approve the December minutes. Bill Gebeck seconded; motion carried.

Approval of Bills: Rod Grunloh made a motion to approve the open bills. Mike Thacker seconded; motion carried.

Approval of Timesheets: Mike Thacker made a motion to approve the December timesheets. Todd Sears seconded; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: The board voted to remove Lorraine Foelske's name from all Midland States Bank accounts and to add Rebecca Taylor as an Authorized Signer. Ashley Wallace and Todd Sears will also remain as Authorized Signers.

Education & Outreach: Ashley is prepping spring sale order forms. Becca and Ashley are working on the spring newsletter. Ashley submitted producer applications for the IDOA's "Fall Covers for Spring Savings" program 1,492 acres. Ashley continues to plan for both the LUC2 and state Envirothon competitions.

Natural Areas: Becca met with IDNR staff at McCune to come up with a tentative monthly maintenance schedule at McCune. Will be cutting down cedars in January, weather permitting. Becca is working on her Pesticide Applicator License. Board will ask for bids to cut down Witness Tree.

Personnel: No updates.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

BUSINESS

PFC: No updates.

SSRP: Becca is waiting to hear back from SSRP specialist.

CRP: No updates.

CREP: Still in administrative stage.

Seeding Service: Becca and Aaron seeded for Ken Stachowicz and have one applicant after him.

Vegetative Filter Strips: None.

Zonings: None.

Equipment Purchase: Mike Thacker ordered the new drill from Yarger – cost will be \$26,700 after trade-in of the 2014 drill. Todd looked into cost of a waterway plow – expensive - \$10,000+; board agreed to table it. Aaron and Becca will repair the wire fence at McCune.

Whitver Farm: Staff will ask Schoff family to mow off strips every few years – will add to lease agreement if needed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

PHS Scholarship Fair: Staff will attend the PHS Scholarship Fair on 1/24 to promote the SWCD scholarship.

Director election: The election will be held next month, February 6th, at the USDA Service Center.

Prairie Chicken Donation: NRCS staff will be traveling to Kansas on a bird hunting trip. Will attempt to locate prairie chickens.

Agenda items for next meeting: Agenda items for next meeting include: ATV sprayer, election, Witness Tree bids

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at Bonucci Farms on February 6, 2023, at 8:15a.m.

Adjournment: Mike Thacker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:57a.m. Todd Sears seconded; motion carried.