

BUREAU COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2024

DIRECTORS PRESENT: Mike Thacker, Bill Gebeck (via phone), Todd Sears, Rod Grunloh, Jim May

DIRECTORS ABSENT: None

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

NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT: Erika Luft – DC, James Morgan – SC

Call to Order: Mike Thacker called the meeting to order at 8:25a.m.

Guests: Caleb Worley, to discuss Whitver CRP options

Approval of Minutes: Rod Grunloh made a motion to approve the February minutes. Todd Grunloh seconded; motion carried.

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

Approval of Timesheets: Todd Sears made a motion to approve the February timesheets. Jim May seconded; motion carried.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance: No new updates.

Education & Outreach: Spring newsletters were mailed out. Ashley and Becca will be attending LUC2 Envirothon on 3/12 and Ag Fair on 3/21.

Natural Areas: Taylor Tree Service has gotten the Witness Tree site all cleaned up. An issue of ownership came up with Indian Boundary Line. The landowner pays property taxes on the site, yet believes whoever manages it should be. Next step is to contact IDOT since we just manage the site, we do not own it.

Personnel: No updates.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

BUSINESS

PFC: None

SSRP: Becca visited the project site with the streambank specialist – the project will need an extension.

CRP: The main focus in the office is status reviews.

CREP: No updates.

Seeding Service: Becca and Aaron completed a seeding for Brian Joehl.

Vegetative Filter Strips: Becca is working on 1 application.

Zonings: Becca presented requests for 2 solar reports, 1 pole building and 1 house addition. No major concerns for any. Mike Thacker made a motion to approve all requests. Jim May seconded; motion carried.

Equipment Purchase: Becca will look into bigger seeder options and a cover for the current seeder.

Whitver Farm: Caleb discussed CRP options with the board, including Pollinator fields and the possibility of changing field borders over to SAFE. Caleb proposed some options on field 72 including a growing season burn or use of a skid steer to clear woody invasives. Thacker Farms will provide the labor after August 1st. The district will pay for the service. A burn is scheduled on the site this year, Caleb has discussed it with James Schoff.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

Director election results: Mike Thacker, Bill Gebeck and Todd Sears were all unanimously re-elected. Rod Grunloh made a motion for Mike to remain Chairman, Bill to be Vice-Chair and Todd to continue as Secretary/Treasurer. Jim May seconded; motion carried.

Prairie Chickens: Pheasants have been spotted at Whitver.

Agenda items for next meeting: Agenda items for next meeting include: Indian Boundary Line and seeder options.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held at Bonucci Farms on April 2nd at 8:15a.m.

Adjournment: Mike Thacker adjourned the meeting at 9:31a.m.