

# BUREAU COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2024

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** None

**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 8:23a.m.

**Guests:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Rod Grunloh made a motion to approve the April minutes. Jim May seconded; motion carried.

**Approval of Bills:** Mike Thacker made a motion to approve the open bills. Bill Gebeck seconded; motion carried.

**Approval of Timesheets:** Mike Thacker made a motion to approve the April timesheets. Rod Grunloh seconded; motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Budget & Finance:** Statements of Economic Interest were completed by Mike, Todd and Jim.

**Education & Outreach:** Conservation Day was held on 5/3 – ~255 kids attended. The district received \$1,100 in donations for the event – Ashley will send thank you cards. Ashley led Illinois Envirothon on 5/8 and 5/9 in Monticello. Becca attended and assisted. The district will receive \$10,000 for compensation of Ashley's time. The plant sale will be on 5/17 – 35 pre-orders received.

**Natural Areas:** Caleb, Becca and other office staff burnt Warnecke prairie. Becca worked with IDNR to replace trail signs at McCune. Discussion was had on renaming the Witness Tree site. Mike Thacker made a motion to rename it to Witness Tree Grove. Bill Gebeck seconded; motion carried.

**Personnel:** Waiting to receive Ryan's summer schedule so we can plan a start date for him.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

### BUSINESS

**PFC:** FY24 allocation funds were received. Will have to transfer some money out as fund won't all get spent this year. Becca sent the ranking sheet in for current projects.

**SSRP:** A pre-construction meeting is the next step in the process.

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

**CREP:** No updates.

**Seeding Service:** Interest has already started for the fall.

**Vegetative Filter Strips:** None.

**Zonings:** Becca received 6 applications between April and May. She is also working with Kris on a large turbine project. Bill Gebeck made a motion to approve the 6 applications. Mike Thacker seconded; motion carried.

**Equipment Purchase:** A tire needs replaced on one of the trailers. Becca and Ryan will meet with Rob to go over drill maintenance. A waterway plow was previously discussed. Rod Grunloh made a motion to purchase the plow and fabric from Thacker Farms for \$4,000. Jim May seconded; motion carried.

**Whitver Farm:** Schoffs burned at the site for their mid-management activity.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

**Scholarship Winner(s):** Of the applicants presented, Jim May made a motion to award a \$500 scholarship to Katelynn Stoller, Ella Thacker and Alex Jagers. Mike Thacker seconded; motion carried. Ashley will send all winners a check and certificate.

**Prairie Chickens:** Pheasants have been spotted at Whitver.

**Agenda items for next meeting:** Agenda items for next meeting include: drills.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at Bonucci Farms on June 4th at 8:15a.m.

**Adjournment:** Mike Thacker adjourned the meeting at 9:11a.m.