

# BUREAU COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2024

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Mike Thacker, Bill Gebeck, Rod Grunloh

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Jim May, Todd Sears

**DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:** Becca Taylor - RC, Ashley Wallace - AC

**NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT:** None

**Call to Order:** Mike Thacker called the meeting to order at 8:23a.m.

**Guests:** Caleb Worley

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

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

**Approval of Timesheets:** Rod Grunloh made a motion to approve the May timesheets. Bill Gebeck seconded; motion carried.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Budget & Finance:** No updates.

**Education & Outreach:** Becca and Ashley attended a CRP Workshop on June 7<sup>th</sup> – hosted by Henry, Mercer and Rock Island Counties. They will volunteer at the 4-H Fair on July 11<sup>th</sup>. There is a tentative plan to co-host a Women in Conservation seminar with Henry and Stark Counties in July. Caleb will be leading a Pheasants Forever Habitat Tour at Warnecke on July 10<sup>th</sup>. The Sheffield 4-H group has reached out looking for volunteer opportunities. Becca sent her a few ideas on upcoming projects.

**Natural Areas:** Becca and Ryan cut trees at Warnecke, and have been working on new signage and trail re-establishment at McCune. They will both work together to obtain their Pesticide Applicator License.

**Personnel:** Morgan Smith is back this summer as an NRCS Pathways intern.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** The district received a thank-you card from one of our scholarship recipients, Alex Jagers.

### BUSINESS

**PFC:** The district is transferring \$10,000 to Hancock County SWCD, since Bureau will not get all FY23 funds spent.

**SSRP:** No updates.

**CRP:** The main focus in the office is status reviews and re-enrolls.

**CREP:** Becca will be completing site visits soon.

**Seeding Service:** No updates.

**Vegetative Filter Strips:** None.

**Zonings:** Becca will talk with Kris Donarski (zoning office) to establish more standardization on when reports are truly necessary.

**Equipment Purchase:** Waiting on the new drill to come in. Mike will bring in the waterway plow when district staff is ready for it, and Thacker Farms will be compensated \$4,000.

**Whitver Farm:** Caleb discussed which CRP offers got accepted for Whitver. There will be 2 new 15-year contracts through SAFE (continuous CRP) and 1 pollinator contract. 8.5 acres were not eligible through Continuous, so a General CRP offer was submitted. SAFE does require more site prep, but is eligible for cost-share and PIP. The board agreed to do prescribed burning for the mid-management activity. The district will do any potential seeding/herbicide application in Spring 2025. Ryan will pull woody vegetation after August 1<sup>st</sup>.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**July Meeting:** July is the time for employee contract discussions and evaluations.

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

**Agenda items for next meeting:** Agenda items for next meeting include evaluations/contracts; new drill.

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

**Adjournment:** Mike Thacker adjourned the meeting at 9:05a.m.