

# BUREAU COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 6, 2024

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

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Jim May

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

**NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT:** Erika Luft - DC. Erika gave a brief report mentioning that she sat in on IDOA Planner interviews and that Morgan may return in January as a Soil Con. She is working on EQIP projects and staff is continuing CRP enrollments.

**Call to Order:** Mike Thacker called the meeting to order at 8:27a.m.

**Guests:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Mike Thacker made a motion to approve the July minutes. Todd Sears seconded; motion carried.

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

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

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Budget & Finance:** General bookkeeping.

**Education & Outreach:** Caleb hosted a Pheasants Forever Habitat Tour at Warnecke on July 10<sup>th</sup>. About 25 attendees joined us. Ashley and Becca attended the 4-H Fair at the fairgrounds on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Becca and Ashley attended the AISWCD Summer Conference in Springfield on July 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>. Ashley also volunteered at the event as an ISWCDEA Rep. AFT hosted a Cover Crop Coffee Hour on July 25<sup>th</sup> at Chris VonHolten's farm.

**Natural Areas:** Becca has been working with IDNR on a potential fence project at McCune. The goal is to deter hunting and create easier water access during prescribed burns. More information coming as they gather details. Tim Bryner has expressed interest in helping create some wood pieces for the Witness Tree Grove. Staff will meet with him to go over ideas and prices.

**Personnel:** Ryan's last day will be 8/9; Morgan's last day will be 8/16.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

### BUSINESS

**PFC:** Marty McManus will be coming some time in August to conduct a project audit.

**SSRP:** Pre-construction meeting completed; construction should begin in October.

**CRP:** The focus in the office is status reviews and re-enrolls. Becca has completed 28 reviews.

**CREP:** Entering the survey process.

**Seeding Service:** No updates.

**Vegetative Filter Strips:** No updates.

**Zonings:** Becca presented 3 letters and one full report for board approval. No major concerns with any. Mike made a motion to approve the zoning requests. Todd seconded; motion carried.

**Equipment Purchase:** No updates.

**Whitver Farm:** Caleb will be at the September meeting to discuss the new CRP contracts. Board agreed to keep the rental rate the same for 2025 - \$260/acre. Ashley will look into average hourly rates for skid steer operators for next meeting.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** N/A.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**LUC2 Meeting 8/21:** Ashley noted the next LUC2 meeting will be in Galva on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

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

**Agenda items for next meeting:** Agenda items for next meeting include the Schoff rental agreement.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at Bonucci Farms on September 3rd at 8:15a.m.

**Adjournment:** Mike Thacker adjourned the meeting at 9:34a.m.