

**Coles County SWCD
Board Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2023**

The November board meeting of the Coles County SWCD was held on Tuesday, November 14th, 2023, at the USDA Service Center in Charleston.

Directors Present:

Bill Janes, Todd Easton, and J.C. Doty

Associate Directors:

None

SWCD Staff:

Lauren Spaniol, Bryson Gibson

Guests:

None

Agenda:

Janes called the meeting to order at 7:38am. The agenda was reviewed. Easton made a motion to approve the agenda. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minutes:

Minutes from the September meeting were reviewed. Doty made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Easton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Timesheets:

Employee timesheets were reviewed.

Travel Reports:

Employee travel reports were reviewed. Doty made a motion to approve the travel report. Easton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Reports:

September and October financial reports were reviewed. Easton made a motion to approve both reports. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Correspondence:

None

Business:

No Action Required:

None

Action Required:

AISWCD winter training is scheduled for December 5th and 6th in Springfield. Easton made a motion to allow Spaniol and Gibson to attend the training conference. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Spaniol requested to vacation time between December 22, 2023 and January 5, 2024. Easton motioned to approve the request. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Illinois Extension received a grant from the Illinois Soybean Association to expand a cover crop program that was started 4 years ago in Whiteside County into two additional counties with the Illinois Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy's identified priority watersheds. Since Coles County is a phosphorus priority county in the NLRs, they have requested for the Coles County SWCD to collaborate on the program. The SWCD's primary role would be to help identify farmers who are interested in the program and physically distribute cover crop seeds to the farmers identified in the late summer or fall of 2024. Doty made a motion for the SWCD to collaborate on the project. Easton seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The annual election of directors is coming up in February. A petition to hold a general election must be filed with IDOA in order to hold an election outside of the annual meeting. Two directorships are up for reelection this year. Easton made a motion to complete a petition to hold a general election, and to form a nominating committee. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried. Spaniol will contact members of the nominating committee.

After some discussion of possible candidates for this year's award, Easton made a motion to nominate Clay Weber of rural Ashmore for Conservation Farmer of the Year. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Doty made a motion to hold the annual holiday party and award ceremony, and to invite the photo contest winners in addition to the Conservation Farmer of the Year. Easton seconded the motion. Spaniol will make reservation at Stadium Grill in Mattoon and contact award winners to invite them.

Staff Reports:

Spaniol and Gibson's staff reports are attached.

Open Discussion:

None

Upcoming Events:

November 23, 2023 – Thanksgiving Day (Office Closed)

Closing:

Easton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Doty seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:05am.

Bill Janes, Chairman