

**Coles County SWCD
Board Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2024**

The February board meeting of the Coles County SWCD was held on Tuesday, February 20th, 2024, at the USDA Service Center in Charleston.

Directors Present: Bill Janes, Justin Thomas, and J.C. Doty

Associate Directors: None

SWCD Staff: Lauren Oertling

Guests: None

Agenda: Janes called the meeting to order at 7:33am. The agenda was reviewed. Thomas made a motion to approve the agenda. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Minutes: Minutes from the January meeting were reviewed. Doty made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Timesheets: Employee timesheets were reviewed. Thomas made a motion to retroactively approve Gibson's absence in January as unpaid leave, since the absence exceeded the amount of sick leave Gibson had accrued. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Travel Reports: Employee travel reports were reviewed. Thomas made a motion to approve the travel report. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Financial Reports:

January financial reports were reviewed. Doty made a motion to approve the reports. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Correspondence:

None

Business:

No Action Required:

Oertling reminded directors to be thinking of folks to invite to be Associate Directors.

AISWCD and IDOA announced an upcoming director training webinar to be held in March, but the exact date and time are still to be announced.

Action Required:

Oertling presented a draft of the Coles County SWCD's Annual Report to the board. Thomas motioned to approve the report as presented. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

National Association of Conservation Districts membership was discussed. In the past, the district had been a member of the organization, but several years ago our membership was discontinued. Thomas made a motion to rejoin the organization at the "gold" level for a year to see if the membership was beneficial, as there are sometimes grants offered for members of the organization. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The Illinois Envirothon planning committee is seeking donations to help cover the costs of the event. Thomas made a motion to donate the same amount as last year. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Grand Prairie Friends is hosting a SAWW level 1 and level 2 chainsaw safety course in Coles County and is soliciting donations to help cover the costs of hosting the event. Doty made a motion to donate \$150 toward the event. Thomas seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Doty made a motion to approve upcoming staff travel to the Land Use Council, KWA Summit, and IDOA Regional Meeting as presented on the calendar.

Watershed planning efforts are being organized in the Lake Mattoon & Lake Paradise watershed (Little Wabash River), as well as additional implementation efforts in the Embarras River Watershed. One possible avenue for funding that has been discussed is an RCPP application through NRCS. Thomas made a motion to support watershed planning efforts via an RCPP application, with the district serving as the primary applicant and/or administrative organization if needed. Doty seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Staff Reports: Gibson's last day of employment with the district was February 16th, and no report was submitted. Oertling's staff report is attached.

Open Discussion: None

Upcoming Events:

See Calendar

Closing: The meeting adjourned at 9:07 a.m.

Bill Janes, Chairman