



**STEPHENSON COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2023**

CALL TO ORDER: Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District Chairperson Jim Hutchison called the meeting to order at 8:03 a. m. on Wednesday, February 15, 2023, in the Blackhawk room, Stephenson County Farm Bureau in Freeport, Illinois.

ROLL CALL: Present at the time the meeting was called to order: Board members Jim Hutchison (Chairperson), Barb Klinger (Secretary/Treasurer), Seth Wenzel (Vice Chairperson), and Matt Schlachter (Board Director); District employees Aaron Dinderman (Resource Conservationist), Trina Orr (Administrative Coordinator); NRCS employee Abby Mielke (Soil Conservationist); City of Freeport employee Lorraine Lopez (Planner); Stephenson County Board member Scott Helms (Chairperson); Stephenson County Farm Bureau employee Debbie Steinbach (Ag in the Classroom Agriculture Literacy Coordinator); and Pheasants Forever employee Jared Trickey (Farm Bill Wildlife Biologist).

Not in attendance: Mark Binger

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Review, discuss, and possible action of the minutes from the January 18, 2023, Stephenson Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting.

Klinger moved to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2023, Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors meeting, Schlachter seconded the motion. There being no further discussion – Voting aye: All. Motion passed.

TREASURERS REPORT AND BUDGET: Review, discuss, and possible action to pay the bills as listed on the monthly budget sheet for January 2023.

Schlachter moved to pay the bills as listed on the monthly budget sheet for January 2023, Wenzel seconded the motion. There being no further discussion – Voting aye: All. Motion passed.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF EMPLOYEE TIMESHEETS: Review, discuss, and possible action of Pay Period January 1, 2023, and January 15, 2023 employee timesheets for Aaron Dinderman and Trina Orr.

Klinger moved to approve the Pay Period January 1, 2023, and January 15, 2023, employee timesheets for Aaron Dinderman and Trina Orr; Schlachter seconded the motion. There being no further discussion – Voting aye: All. Motion passed.

REPORTS

STEPHENSON COUNTY BOARD REPORT (Scott Helms)

- Steve Fricke will be attending all future meetings in place of Scott Helms.



- Stephenson County Health Department Director, Gellar is retiring.
- Stephenson County Nursing Home had 10 residents and 12 staff test positive with COVID.
- Ingrown Farms has stopped all tours due to an explosion and has laid off 25 workers.

STEPHENSON COUNTY FARM BUREAU – AG IN THE CLASSROOM REPORT (Debbie Steinbach)

- February topic was Soybeans.
- March topic will be Eggs and Chickens.
- 533 students participated in the January topic, Positively Pigs.

FREEPORT CITY COUNCIL REPORT (Lorraina Lopez)

- Freeport Transit has provided 33,500 rides in the last 2 quarters.
- 55% of Freeport is below poverty level.
- The East Side Buyout project has 13 properties completed, and 7 properties waiting for state approval.

PHEASANTS FOREVER (Jared Trickey)

- All Burn Plans should be completed by the end of February.

SWCD RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT (Aaron Dinderman)

Report in Board Meeting packet.

NRCS – EQIP REPORT (Abby Mielke)

Report in Board Meeting packet.

NRCS – CSP (Abby Mielke)

Report in Board Meeting packet.

NRCS – Compliance Reviews (Abby Mielke)

Report in Board Meeting packet.

NRCS – SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN REPORT (Luke Tweeten)

Report in Board Meeting packet.

NRCS – SOIL CONSERVATIONIST REPORT (Hannah McWhirter)

Report in Board Meeting packet.

Review, discuss, and possible action of Stephenson County Farm Bureau Report, SWCD Resource Conservationist Report, NRCS-CRP/Conservation Plan/CPO's Report, NRCS-Contribution Agreement Report, and NRCS-EQIP/CSP Update Reports as e-mailed in the Board of Directors packet.



Klinger moved to approve the reports as e-mailed in the Board of Directors packet Schlachter seconded the motion. There being no further discussion – Voting aye: All. Motion passed.

2023 ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD: Review, discuss, and possible action to motion, vote, and approve 2023 Organization of the Board

Chairperson – Jim Hutchison

Wenzel moved to assign Jim Hutchison as Chairperson of the Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District Schlachter seconded the motion. There being no further discussion – Voting aye: All. Motion passed.

Vice-Chairperson – Seth Wenzel

Klinger moved to assign Seth Wenzel as Vice-Chairperson of the Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District Schlachter seconded the motion. There being no further discussion – Voting aye: All. Motion passed.

Secretary and Treasurer – Barb Klinger

Wenzel moved to assign Barb Klinger as Secretary and Treasurer of the Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District Schlachter seconded the motion. There being no further discussion – Voting aye: All. Motion passed.

Director – Matt Schlachter

Wenzel moved to assign Matt Schlachter as Director of the Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District Klinger seconded the motion. There being no further discussion – Voting aye: All. Motion passed.

EXECUTIVE CLOSED SESSION (Jim Hutchison)

Stephenson County Soil & Water Conservation District entered into an Executive Closed Session at 8:58 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT – Having no other business, Chairperson Hutchison adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a. m.

Notes recorded by Trina Orr