

**LaSalle County Soil & Water Conservation District
February 5, 2007**

The LaSalle County SWCD board meeting was held at the USDA Service Center, 1691 North 31st Road, Ottawa, IL. JoAnn Adams called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Directors present were JoAnn Adams, Brian Atherton, Ruth Capsel, and Dennis Ford. Brett Larson was absent.

January financial statements and bills to be paid: Motion to approve – Ruth Capsel; Second – Brian Atherton. Motion Carried

January timesheets for Ruth Anthe and Vicki Heath: Motion to approve: – Brian Atherton; Second – .Dennis Ford. Motion Carried.

January board meeting minutes were approved: Motion – Dennis Ford; Second – Brian Atherton. Motion Carried.

Chairman's Report – None.

Public Information/Education – The committee met January 22 and discussed Spring Nature Days at the Rasmusen property. Plans for Ladies' Day include a bus tour of conservation practices near Starved Rock, Mark Baran discussing the new soil survey and Linda Kendall, County Assessor, speaking on Farmland Assessments. There were suggestions for a third speaker but we have no confirmation of one yet. The event will be held at the Utica K of C Hall if it is available. Legislators will be invited to attend Ladies' Day. The event will be advertised in the March newsletter and registration forms will be included in the June newsletter. A NAG meeting was held January 30 with 13 people attending. NAGs are working on having a plant sale in May or June. Cory McTaggart reported that she is working on two new programs for 5th and 6th grade students. She will present a program at Catlin Park on May 3.

Soils Committee – None.

Water Committee – None.

Habitat Committee – The care and plans for the Costello and Rasmusen properties have been moved from the Education Committee to the Habitat Committee. Brian Hale has been making trips to the Costello property to inventory the native plants.

Prime Farmland Committee – Brian attended the Big Bureau Creek Watershed meeting. A Dennis Ford/Brian Atherton motion approved District support for inventory and evaluation of the Big Bureau Creek in LaSalle County.

Prairie Rivers RC&D – none.

Vermilion River Committee Report – None.

County Board Development Committee – None.

RC Report – Report attached. A Brian Atherton/Ruth Capsel motion approved a LESA report (Score: 139) for Leslie Nelson. It was agreed that the already approved NRI report for Fall River Township would not be amended to reflect the changes due to annexation of land by the City of Ottawa. At the time the report was prepared, Vicki was using the maps that were available to her. Letters were sent to mayors and village presidents in the county regarding NRI reports. The City Engineer of Streator has turned in a request for a NRI report on 17 plus acres that will be developed into a park. Vicki talked to Doug Camp, LaSalle County GIS Specialist. He will place current city boundaries on a GIS layer and Vicki will assist in updating the maps as land is annexed into cities. A Dennis Ford/Brian Atherton motion approved Vicki signing a confidentiality statement and her assisting the county with keeping the maps updated.

Office Report - Report attached.

NRCS Report – Reports attached. The last ranking for EQIP ended February 2. 10 applications were submitted. Mark would like to meet with the Soils and Water Committees in late February to develop an agenda and speakers for the Drainage Workshop. February 19th is President's Day and the office will be closed for the holiday. Mark passed out a progress report of work that has been completed in the County and reported to NRCS.

Old Business:

Annual Meeting – Next year we will announce that the doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. It was suggested that we allow ten to 15 minutes after the meeting for silent auction bidding. Jeff Maierhofer will contact Joe Webel about speaking at the Annual Meeting to be held January 18, 2008. It was also suggested that a speaker be hooked up in the bar area because people in there could not hear the announcements. Jeff Maierhofer and Kevin Nelson both volunteered large screens for next year’s Year in Review and presentations.

It was decided to drop the “Leaving/Entering LaSalle County” sign project.

New Business:

JoAnn Adams and Dennis Ford will be attending the Spring Workshop that will be held March 1 at Pitsticks. The Council III will be held following the workshop.

Tage Shumway and Ruth Capsel will attend the New Directors Workshop in Springfield on March 5 and 6. Due to the date of this training, the LaSalle County SWCD’s March meeting date was changed to March 12th.

The disability insurance proposal was discussed and tabled to the next meeting. This should be brought up at the Council Meeting on March 1.

Dennis Ford and Vicki Heath were appointed Legislative Contacts for our county. Dennis Ford will attend the Legislative Day breakfast in Springfield on March 21st.

Vicki reviewed a memo from Rich Howell, Natalie Mahler and Megan Andrews regarding changes to the C-2000 funds. These employees suggest that changes to the rules for using C-2000 funds. They propose allowing more funds for well sealing, increasing the cost share amount, the elimination of duplicate forms, and allowing employees to approve and pay for well sealing without getting board or IDOA approval before issuing checks. The proposal was discussed and it was decided that LaSalle County does not support these employee proposed changes.

A Dennis Ford/Ruth Capsel motion adjourned the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

The next meeting is March 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Dennis Ford, Secretary/Treasurer

Brett Larson, Chairman

Attendance:

Directors: JoAnn Adams, Brian Atherton, Ruth Capsel, Dennis Ford
Associate Directors: Arnie Leder, Jeff Maierhofer, Kevin Nelson, Diana Rod, John Thomas
NRCS Staff: Mark Baran, John Garrity
District Staff: Ruth Anthe, Vicki Heath
Educator: Cory McTaggart
Director-Elect: Tage Shumway