

LaSalle County Soil & Water Conservation District
March 12, 2007

The LaSalle County SWCD board meeting was held at the USDA Service Center, 1691 North 31st Road, Ottawa, IL. Brett Larson called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

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

A Brian Atherton/JoAnn Adams motion approved Dennis Ford and Tage Shumway as newly elected officers for 2007-2009. Ruth Capsel nominated JoAnn Adams for Chairman. Brian Atherton seconded the motion. A Dennis Ford/Brian Atherton motion closed the nominations. JoAnn Adams was elected chairman by unanimous vote. A JoAnn Adams/Ruth Capsel nominated Brian Atherton for the vice chairman position. Brian was elected vice chairman by unanimous vote. A JoAnn Adams/Brian Atherton motion nominated Dennis Ford to retain the secretary/treasurer position. A unanimous vote elected Dennis as the secretary/treasurer.

Outgoing director, Brett Larson thanked the directors, associate directors, and staff for their support and assistance during his term as chairman of the district.

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

February timesheets for Ruth Anthe and Vicki Heath: Motion to approve: – Ruth Capsel; Second – Tage Shumway. Motion Carried.

February board meeting minutes were approved with correction changing “repaired” to “prepared” in the RC report: Motion – Brian Atherton; Second – Dennis Ford . Motion Carried.

Chairman’s Report – None.

Public Information/Education – Alice Pfau’s Environmental group will help with both Rasmusen Nature Days in April. Ladies Day will be held June 19th at the Utica Town Hall. Linda Kendall, Mark Baran and Fred Esmond are speakers for the event. Legislators will be invited to Ladies’ Day; if they attend, they will be given an opportunity to speak. September 19th is the tentative date for Activity Day. October 2nd and 4th are the dates for Fall Nature Days. The next NAG meeting is March 27th. Members are bringing their favorite identification book. No definite plans have been made for a spring plant sale.

Soils Committee – Strip till and no till plots are planned for LaSalle-Peru FFA property, Mendota FFA property and John Thomas’ farm. A meeting will be held March 26 or 27 with Sara Tweet, Jeff Landers and John Thomas. The plots will be set up for a minimum of three years. A drainage workshop will be held June 14 at the Farm Bureau building. Speakers are Greg Russman, Bill Schleezer, Richard Cooke, and Mark Baran.

Water Committee – Included with Soils.

Habitat Committee – The committee is still waiting on a Forestry Plan from Randy Timmons. Directors will tour the property at 4:00 p.m. on April 2. A wetland workshop is being planned for September 20.

Prime Farmland Committee –None.

Prairie Rivers RC&D – The RC&D is still seeking funding. The by-laws are being re-written. The next meeting is March 23.

Vermilion River Committee Report – None.

County Board Development Committee – A meeting will be held March 29 at 9:00 a.m., at the County Board office, regarding the update of the Comprehensive Plan. The LESA report form may need to be re-worked also.

RC Report – Report attached. Vicki presented a letter addressed to Jon Hubbert and Bob Dean, (Assistant State Conservationists with NRCS) asking for NRCS assistance with the Big Bureau Creek Watershed. A vegetative filter strip tax reduction application for Eric & Vicky Anderson was approved by a Dennis Ford/Brian Atherton motion. The Bureau of Land & Water approved the SSRP project for Chuck Nelson. The construction should be done by the end of March. A Tage Shumway/Brian Atherton motion approved the Streator Park Area NRI that scored 144. A Dennis Ford/Tag Shumway motion approved changing the score on Fall River NRI to 184.

A Brian Atherton/Dennis Ford motion approved a LESA report for Paul DeGroot in Ottawa Township with a score of 185. Two H.D. Wiley Rutland Township LESA reports with scores of 171 & 198 were approved by a Dennis Ford/Tage Shumway motion. A Ruth Capsel/Tage Shumway motion approved the LESA report for ADM in Rutland Township with a score of 171. If anyone has ideas on projects that could be covered under the cost share program, please let Vicki know.

Office Report - Report attached.

NRCS Report – Reports attached. Ten EQIP applications were submitted and pre-approved. One producer decided to rescind his application. Mark presented a letter from Agri-Drain and Springfield Plastics that was sent to landowners. John Garrity thanked the District for their assistance with the Pheasants Forever Banquet. John asked the board to consider nominating Pat Fry as the Conservation Teacher of the Year. A moment of silence was held in memory of Curtis Jorstad.

Old Business:

The disability insurance proposal was discussed and tabled to the next meeting. Marion County is getting quotes for coverage.

New Business:

Jeff Maierhofer reported that Joe Webel is available to speak at the 2008 Annual Meeting. His fee is \$200 plus mileage. A vote regarding the speaker will be taken at the April meeting.

The comprehensive plan revision meeting was discussed by John Hughes when giving the county development/zoning report.

The Open Meetings Act information will be reviewed by Directors.

A Brian Atherton/Ruth Capsel motion approved the chairman's signature on the NRCS Contribution Agreement Revision.

Seneca High School will hold their FFA Banquet April 14th at 7:00 p.m.

A Ruth Capsel/Dennis Ford motion approved going into closed session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss employee evaluations, employee benefits, and review closed meeting minutes.

A Tage Shumway/Dennis Ford motion at 9:20 moved the board back into the open meeting. A Ruth Capsel/Brian Atherton motion approved raising the RC salary by \$500 per year.

A Brian Atherton/Ruth Capsel motion adjourned the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

The next meeting is April 2nd at 7:00 p.m.

Dennis Ford, Secretary/Treasurer

JoAnn Adams, Chairman

Attendance:

Directors: JoAnn Adams, Brian Atherton, Ruth Capsel, Dennis Ford, Brett Larson, Tage Shumway

Associate Directors: Alan Adams, Tom Joerger, John Hughes, Arnie Leder, Jeff Maierhofer, Bob Miller, Diana Rod, Kay Schlesinger

NRCS Staff: Mark Baran, John Garrity

District Staff: Ruth Anthe, Vicki Heath