

BOND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
1111 E. Harris Ave., Greenville, IL 62246  
Regular Monthly Board Meeting, Wednesday, July 23, 2008

The regular monthly meeting of the Bond County Soil and Water Conservation District's Board of Directors was held on Wednesday, July 23, 2008 at the USDA Building. Mike Bingham called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

Directors present: Mike Bingham, Wes Pourchot, Lester Harnetiaux, Artie Myers, Harold Gehrig.

Absent: Karen File

Also present: Emily Hartmann, Administrative Coordinator, Resource Conservationist, Justin King, District Conservationist, and Rob Rinehart, Soil Technician. Absent: Dan Feldmann.

Directors reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Lester Harnetiaux moved for approval of the minutes as written; Wes Pourchot seconded this motion; carried.

Last month's financial reports, and current bills due, were reviewed and discussed by the Board. Lester Harnetiaux; moved to approve financial reports as presented and payment of all bills and timesheets; Artie Myers seconded this motion; carried.

**Administrative Coordinator's Report:** Emily has been working on the Book Barn, working on HEL determinations for NRCS, completed NMP certification, and been gathering CPP applications. She submitted the CPP request for 09 CPP funds. She has been working on the county fair booth display and is preparing for summer conference next week. She continues to work with the local insurance agent regarding the claim for the no-till drill and truck regarding Dan's accident in June. All-State Insurance is not responding and claims to be conducting their own investigation. Invoices have been sent, but were delayed due to the busy drill season and waiting for acre reports. So, the income will show up on the 2009 budget rather than 2008. Lester Harnetiaux moved to increase the timeliness of sending out drill invoices and to send invoices out as close to the 15<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> as possible to help customers take advantage of the 5% early pay discount. Wes Pourchot seconded.

The Lieutenant Governor's office contacted the SWCD offices in the state regarding planning a conservation day on Sept. 20 to celebrate the Rivers and Waterways of Illinois. The Lt. Governor's office would like for the SWCD's to coordinate outdoor activities that day like fishing tournaments, wildlife walks, canoeing trips, etc. Emily and Justin have contact Mark Carr regarding touring his timber. He completed a timber improvement project and Mark Koch says his project has been one of the best. He has CRP, ponds, and several wildlife food plots. Mr. Carr has agreed to let us tour his farm. Fred Cronin might also be available for a pond shocking demonstration at Governor Bond Lake. However, due to budget issues with several agencies working and travel on Saturdays is restricted for Cronin, Koch and King. Wes Pourchot moved to hold the event on Friday, September 19 instead. Lester Harnetiaux seconded. Motion carried.

**Resource Conservationist's Report:** Dan Feldmann was on vacation. Emily Hartmann reported on his behalf. The drill season is going well. Shiloh Valley Equipment has offered to accept our two used drills in trade for two new John Deere no-till drills at the same price per drill as the deal we made last year. However, the drills need to be ordered immediately. John Deere is getting up to 6-9 months behind on their orders for new no-till drill orders. Artie Myers moved to accept Shiloh Valley's offer and order the drills. Lester Harnetiaux seconded. Motion carried.

**NRCS Report:** Justin King reported NRCS is continuing to focus on EQIP sign-ups and CRP field borders.

**Old Business:** The Book Barn project with Ag in the Classroom is progressing. The Barn has been moved to the Soil and Water shed for completion. Emily is working with Karen to install shelving and to complete the interior of the project.

Plans include indoor/outdoor carpeting, lights, electrical outlets, posters, books, experiment stations, and agricultural educational materials. The Book Barn will be unveiled on Sunday, August 3 at 1:00 pm during the County Fair. All directors are invited to attend. The Barn will also be pulled in the parade during the fair.

The Equipment Rental Agreement was sent to the Attorney Chris Bauer's office, but no response was received. The revised agreement will be distributed to all rental customers from this point forward and will be kept on file in the office.

**New Business:** Several new CPP applications have been received and are on file in the office. The SWCD has \$10,000 available for projects. Justin King and Rob Rinehart have completed designing Paul Bunyard's waterway and met with his contractor. However, due to restricted NRCS funding, they will no longer be able to work with us to design new projects until their funding restrictions are lifted. As a result we will only be able to fund projects that will not require major structural design work, or projects that Emily can facilitate through NMP, or pasture-hayland projects. The following CPP project applications have been approved: Paul Bunyard (waterway), Arthur Schneider (Pasture-Hayland), Lynn Zobrist (Pasture-Hayland), Brandon Beckert (Pasture-Hayland), Frank Doll (Pasture-Hayland). Emily continues to accept applications and develop a wait list.

The FY09 Budget has been cut by the Governor and the General Assembly will not meet again until November. In anticipation of the budget cuts it was recommended by the board to prepare a budget of 50% of last years funds. Discussions will occur next week during Summer Conference regarding the funding issue. Lester, Emily and Dan are all registered for the conference and plan to attend.

**RC&D:** Lester and Emily attended the last RC&D meeting. The RC&D are considering moving their office to the Collinsville area and constructing a "green" building near a wetland. They have decided to go off of the NRCS system and have their own IT system and server. Ed Weilbacher is continuing to serve the SW RC&D and the Shawnee RC&D, but they are planning to hire a replacement for the Shawnee office.

**Future Meetings:** The next meeting is scheduled for August 13 at 8:30 am. The next board meeting will include time for employee reviews.

Respectfully submitted,

Harold Gehrig  
Secretary, Bond County SWCD

Notes taken by Emily Hartmann, AC