Illinois Valley Soil & Water Conservation District

Bi-Monthly Board Meeting

SWCD Office/Zoom

**Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Called to Order Thursday April 22, 2021 by Bill Reid, Chairman at 6:01 pm

**LIVE ATTENDEES ZOOM ATTENDEES ABSENTEES**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Bill Reid | Marcy Sowa | Janice Denney (WC) |
| Rhett Nelsen | Jim Gurley | Joy McEwen (WC) |
| Katrina Poydack | Gene Merrill (WC) | Carol Crawford (WC) |
| Bob Webb | Tracey Reed (Staff) | Arlyse DeLoyola (office mgr) |
| Janice Denney (WC) | Kevin O’Brien (Staff) |  |
| Don Young (WC) | Joy McEwen (WC) |  |
| Bob Schmidt | Patty Downing (WC) |  |
|  | Marganne Allen, ODA |  |
|  | Alex Ponder, Applicant |  |

**SCRIBE**

Notes were taken by Tracey Reed

* **Minutes**: The minutes from the February meeting were presented to the Board for review.
* **Bob Schmidt made a motion to approve the minutes for February.**
* **Rhett Nelsen seconded that motion.**
* **The motion carried without dissent.**
* **Financials**: The Financial Reports from July 1, 2020– March 31, 2021 were presented to the Board for review.
* **Bob Schmidt made a motion to accept the financial reports.**
* **Rhett Nelsen seconded that motion.**
* **Discussion was held.**
* **The motion carried without dissent.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

* **Report on hiring of Contract Employee**
* Tracey reported that Angie’s work is going well.

**NEW BUSINESS**

* **Associate Director Application**
  + Alex Ponder was introduced as an applicant to the open Associate Director position. Discussion was held and questions fielded.
  + **A motion was made by Bob Webb, seconded by Marcy Sowa to appoint Alex Ponder as an Associate Director.**
  + **The motion passed without dissent.**
* **White Ditch Contracts**
* Tracey explained that there was missing data on the ditch that was expected from the Water Rights Examiner. Bill gave background on the project. Next steps are to speak with the engineer regarding what is needed and determine a resolution.

**CONTINUING**

* **Staff and partnering agency reports were presented to the board:**

Tracey reviewed her report.

Arlyse was not present at the meeting but submitted a written report.

* Jim Gurley mentioned an email from SDAO regarding the US Treasury release of funds for water infrastructure under a newly passed bill. He asked if IVSWCD (and IVWC) might be able to offer a clear path for whom to talk to regarding water complaints. He mentioned that he had trouble getting any agency to look into issues on Clear Creek.

* Marganne Allen of ODA was introduced. She explained that Beth Pietrzak will field all local inquiries, and that investigations are complaint driven and cannot be anonymous but can come from an agency. The ODA will check to see if the problems are of agricultural origin, and if not, will pass the issue off to the correct agency for resolution. More discussion was held and Marganne gave attendees a link to page 12 of the area Water Quality Plan regarding complaints and information. Patty asked about doing Outreach on how to make a complaint or ask questions, making it easier for the community to act. She would like to see data regarding the impact of hemp rather than just anecdotal evidence. Marganne informed the group that one of the requirements for growing hemp is reporting where the water is coming from. Marcy mentioned the IVSWCD/IVWC Resource List and suggested forming a stream work group. The list needs to be updated and was tasked to Tracey and Arlyse to complete.
* Katrina suggested doing Farmer’s Market again and starting a Task Force on Water Quality. Also mentioned was having the watermaster come out again for an educational event.
* Discussion was held regarding illegal users not being shut down, which is affecting legal water users. Bob mentioned advocacy to the State Legislature by OACD
* Marganne Allen gave her contact information and explained that she had replaced John Byers as Water Quality programs Manager. She noted that the AG water Quality plan was due for a full update in Quarter One of 2022. She also said she is available to speak about the hemp program.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is to be held on June 24 at 6:00 PM at the Illinois Valley SWCD Office and via ZOOM.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm**

APPROVED MINUTES: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_