



ROCK ISLAND COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

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RISWCD November Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 4th, 2025

5:00 p.m. @ Rock Island Library – Southwest Branch

PRESENT

Nathan Oak, Chairman
Rich Stewart, RC
Gary Blanchard, Director
Dayna Gillespie, AC
Rebekah Ahrens, Director
Joey Deloian, RCII
Jason Flickinger, Director
Joe Gates, Cons Specialist

ABSENT

Louis Liva, PCM Specialist
Bob Westpfahl, County Board Rep
Wyatt Junis, Soil Conservationist
Bill Parchert, Secretary/Treasurer
Marty McManus, IDOA Rep
Benjamin Ford, Soil Technician

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman N. Oak called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. Roll call was taken.

2. MOTION TO ACCEPT CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

J. Flickinger made a motion to accept consent agenda items, G. Blanchard seconded.
MOTION PASSED.

3. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

4. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Update RISWCD Personnel Policy** – The RISWCD Directors and employees discussed the need to update the Personnel Policy that was previously approved in 2017. The discussion was prompted by an upcoming employee who needs to take parental leave to care for a newborn child. Under the existing policy, employees are required to exhaust all accrued sick time and are not provided with any additional paid leave. The directors reviewed multiple leave options, including benefits provided to federal employees and Illinois state employees for parental leave. The directors approved granting the employee an additional 10 weeks of paid parental leave. This leave may be used over the span of one year and is contingent upon the employee's ability to remain current with work duties during that time, which may include working from home if necessary. D. Gillespie will prepare a contract to be signed by the board chairman and the employee taking the leave and update the Personnel Policy to be signed at the next board meeting. J. Flickinger made a

motion to update the RISWCD Personnel Policy, G. Blanchard seconded the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

2. **FY26 Election Items** – D. Gillespie received signatures from the directors for the Petition for Holding a General Election and the Certificates of Eligibility to Seek the Office of Director of the Rock Island County SWCD for the next election that will be held February 9th, 2026, at the Milan USDA Service Center. **No further action was taken.**
3. **PFC** – J. Deloian presented PFC projects to be approved by the board of directors. The waterways and WASCOB that were approved at the last meeting for D. Tchappet will be postponed until the next fiscal year due to the landowner's schedule. The first PFC project cost-share that needs approval is \$1,357.04 for a 1.5-acre pollinator planting for C. Amundsen. The second is for \$1,413.23 for 22 acres of cover crops for D. Dekeyrel. The third is \$6,423.75 for 100 acres of cover crops for G. Smeltzly. J. Flickinger made a motion to approve the three PFC projects, G. Blanchard seconded that motion. **MOTION PASSED.**
4. **Funding/Fall Sale Updates** – D. Gillespie gave an update on where the district stands financially and what funding is being held up due to the government shutdown. There are plans to reduce one of the district's CDs in November to supplement the funding we have not received. The district's fall sales are over and our net income from that was \$2,772.00. **No further action was taken.**
5. **CPRG Program** – J. Deloian explained the new CPRG program to the directors. The district is to receive funds for facilitating the program. **No further action was taken.**

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

1. None

6. **STAFF REPORT/REQUESTS TO STAFF**

Written reports were provided by R. Stewart, J. Deloian, D. Gillespie, and J. Gates.

7. **Next board meeting scheduled for December 9th @ 5pm at Milan NRCS Center.**

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by R. Ahrens, second by J. Flickinger to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:21 PM.
MOTION PASSED.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bill Parchert, Secretary/Treasurer

Chairman's signature: Bill Parchert