

# **CHAMPAIGN COUNTY**

## **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Round Barn Convention Center, Champaign, IL  
Minutes of the Annual Meeting: January 30, 2009

Director Joe Rothermel welcomed the assembly and Director Lennie Heiser led them in the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Eric Suits gave the invocation. Lunch was served to over 115 guests.

Director Steve Stierwalt introduced the Directors and staff; then made introductions of governmental officials and other special guests.

Chairman Steve Stierwalt called for a motion to approve the minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report to be approved as presented. The motion was made and seconded. The motion carried. The Chairman called for old business and none was brought forward. New business was called for, none was brought forward. The meeting was turned over to Mr. Jan Meyer, Farm Manager for Camp Farm Management and chairman of the Nominating Committee for the election of Directors. The slate of nominees included Lennie Heiser and Eric Suits for a two year term. Mr. Meyer called for nominations from the floor three times, hearing none, he asked for a motion to close nominations and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the two candidates. The motion was made by Scott Reifsteck and seconded by Tom Berns for the unanimous ballot, which passed on a voice vote.

Bruce Stickers recognized the members of the St. Joseph Wetland Committee for their time and devotion establishing, maintaining, and planning the wetland restoration project, as well as the education viewing/parking area. Eleanor Blackmon presented Tom Berns the Outstanding Friend of Conservation Award for his contributions in establishing the St. Joseph Wetland and his support in the Salt Fork Watershed.

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

The meeting was then turned over to Director Steve Stierwalt who announced the guest speaker. The guest speaker for the afternoon was Mr. Dave Gentry, the morning voice on WDWS radio. Mr. Gentry shared his family stories of farming and family life. Grandpa Gentry came to Illinois, settled in the Tolono area, and found a job on the Meharry/Riegel farms. A favorite story is of Grandpa Gentry taking the slower but steady approach when farming with horses. Others would beat him down the field as they used the whip on their horses, but Grandpa Gentry would pass them by again because they had to give their horses longer breaks at the end of the row. Looking back, we find W.E. Riegel and the Meharry's were widely know for the impact they had bring soybeans in Champaign County and helping establish Illinois as the leading state for soybean production during most of the 1930's. To the pleasure of the Champaign County SWCD, family members from both the Reifsteck and Riegel families were present.

Chairman Stierwalt concluded the event by thanking Brenda Donoho for the beautiful piano music played during the meal, and by thanking all the wonderful sponsors that help make the event possible. The sponsors' advertisements are throughout the program booklet with a full list on the inside of the back cover.

Eric Suits, Secretary/Treasurer  
Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District