

**Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District**  
**December 18, 2009**  
**Board Meeting Minutes**

Directors present: Steve Stierwalt, Eleanor Blackmon, Joe Rothermel, Lennie Heiser and Eric Suits (arriving at 11:47).

Staff present: Bruce Stickers, Renee Weitekamp and Terre Zeigler.

Natural Resource Conservation Service Staff present: Kevin Donoho.

Meeting was called to order at 11:05 a.m. on Friday, December 18, 2009. Introductions were made.

**Old Business**

*Annual Meeting* – The staff and board will follow up with phone calls to past sponsors that have not yet contacted the office about sponsoring this year's annual meeting. During the program, time will be allotted for someone with the U of I to introduce the CSREES grant and time will also be scheduled for Eric Suits to discuss the AISWCD sponsorship initiative.

*Cash Management Plan* – Eleanor Blackmon made a motion allowing Bruce Stickers and Eric Suits to commit the Champaign County SWCD money from the CD maturing on December 18, 2009, totaling just over \$51,000, to an investment yielding at least 4.5% interest with a term not to exceed four (4) years. Joe seconded. Eric Suits moved to amend the motion to include designating Bruce Stickers as the point of contact for Wells Fargo Advisors. Joe seconded, motion carried. Eric Suits made a motion to close the Certificate of Deposit at CIBM set to mature on December, 18 2009. Lennie Heiser seconded, motion carried.

**New Business**

*Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) & Open Meetings Act (OMA)* – Staff presented information from a recent meeting outlining a few of the changes that will go into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>. After discussion, Eleanor Blackmon made a motion to appoint Renee Weitekamp as the FOIA Officer and Bruce Stickers as the back-up FOIA Officer. Lennie Heiser seconded, motion carried.

*Quarterly Board Update* – Eric Suits discussed the upcoming computer costs based on information Mr. Gradle presented at the December Quarterly Board meeting. A letter was sent to district chairman informing them of the fee to keep more than one computer connected to the USDA network; districts are to contact NRCS soon if they wish to remain connected. If no contact is made, IT staff will start removing computers in the latter part of January. After discussion, Eric Suits made a motion to pay the \$3,126 to keep a second computer connected to the USDA network. Eleanor Blackmon seconded, motion carried. Eric Suits also presented information on the AISWCD budget. The AISWCD had to make \$55,000 in budget cuts, which will result in a number of cuts including a reduction of hours for employees starting January 1, 2010. Mr. Suits stressed the importance of the AISWCD sponsorship efforts. If each district in the state could get 25 sponsors, the \$55,000 could be recovered. As it stands, the AISWCD budget does not include any income from the sponsorships. The AISWCD is working on enhancements, which will hopefully help encourage districts to promote the project. It will also be important to ask people what they expect from their membership so the AISWCD and districts can work towards improving their efforts to help soil and water across the state.

**Other**

The district received notice that some Operations and Partners for Conservation monies will be forthcoming.

The Champaign County SWCD Board will hold their next board meeting on Thursday, January 7, 2010 at 5:00 p.m.

Joe Rothermel moved to adjourn the meeting. Lennie Heiser seconded, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:40 P.M.

Minutes prepared by Renee Weitekamp for Eric Suits, Secretary  
Champaign County SWCD