

# **CHAMPAIGN COUNTY**

## **SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

Round Barn Convention Center, Champaign, IL  
Minutes of the Annual Meeting: January 29, 2010

Director Lennie Heiser welcomed the assembly and led them in the Pledge of Allegiance. Director Eric Suits gave the invocation. Lunch was served to over 130 guests.

Director Steve Stierwalt introduced the Directors and staff; then made introductions of governmental officials and other special guests. Special thanks were given to the musicians, sponsors and committee volunteers.

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. Dean Robinson, Farm Manager for Camp Farm Management and chairman of the Nominating Committee for the election of Directors. The slate of nominees included Eleanor Blackmon, Joe Rothermel and Steve Stierwalt for a two year term. Mr. Robinson 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 three candidates. The motion was made by Carl Erb and seconded by Gerald Henry for the unanimous ballot, which passed on a voice vote.

Mark David, a professor at the U of I in the Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences was recently awarded a grant from the USDA National Integrated Water Quality Program. Dr. David was on hand to introduce the project which looks at evaluating ways to modify tile drainage. Dr. David also introduced the team associated with the project and gave Dr. Courtney Flint the opportunity to present the part of the project dealing with the sociological factors influencing conservation decisions by landowners.

Joe Rothermel gave an overview of strip-till and the efforts taken by the district to increase the use of this practice. One of these efforts was to form a strip-till committee of producers, industry, and education representatives. The committee was recognized for the great strides and guidance they have provided to help reduce soil erosion and improve water quality through strip-till. Eric Suits presented Dan Schaefer the Outstanding Friend of Conservation Award for pioneering research to determine optimal fertilizer placement and soil sampling in strip-till crop systems. Mr. Schaefer is an innovator in the industry and district is very proud and fortunate to have the opportunity to work with Mr. Schaefer.

Kevin Donoho, the NRCS District Conservationist in Champaign County, spoke on Chief Dave White's philosophy for NRCS to get conservation on the ground and to create a climate where agency can succeed.

The business meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The meeting was then turned over to Director Steve Stierwalt who announced the guest speaker. The guest speaker for the afternoon was Invenergy representative, Mr. Jeff Veazie. Mr. Veazie is the project manager for the California Ridge Wind Farm Project that is proposed for Champaign and Vermillion counties.

Chairman Stierwalt concluded the event by again thanking the Cordo Trio for the beautiful music played during the meal.

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