**BUREAU COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

May 13, 2025

**DIRECTORS PRESENT:** Mike Thacker, Todd Sears, Bill Gebeck, Rod Grunloh

**DIRECTORS ABSENT:** Jim May

**DISTRICT STAFF PRESENT:** Becca Taylor - RC, Ashley Wallace - AC

**NRCS PERSONNEL PRESENT:** Erika Luft – DC, Richard Rappley – NRS, Morgan Smith – Soil Con, Ainslee Stroup – IDOA Planner

**Call to Order:** Mike Thacker called the meeting to order at 8:24a.m.

**Guests:** None

**Approval of Minutes:** Rod made a motion to approve the April minutes. Mike seconded; motion carried.

**Approval of Bills:** Todd made a motion to approve the open bills. Rod seconded; motion carried.

**Approval of Timesheets:** Mike made a motion to approve the April timesheets. Bill seconded; motion carried.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Budget & Finance:** Tax Levy signoff amount for FY2024 was $17,927.77.

**Education & Outreach:** Tree and fish sales were held. After bills, the tree sale profit was $1,180.50. 27 customers – first time offering container grown in the spring. After bills, the fish sale profit was $2,192.50. 39 customers, most customers for a fish sale since Ashley has been here. Conservation day on 5/2. Approximately 280 kids. Richard, Erika and Lisa Aber helped Ashley to make the day a success. Illinois Envirothon was 5/4-5/6. Ashley coordinated the event and Becca assisted. 19 teams from across the state competed.

**Natural Areas:** Whitver was burned. Becca will be ordering trail cameras for Warnecke ; one will face parking lot, one will face the trailhead behind the shop.

**Personnel:** Morgan Smith returned as a Soil Con.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

**BUSINESS**

**PFC:** Approximately $10,000 left to spend for FY24 funds.

**SSRP:** No updates.

**CRP:** Maintenance reviews being completed.

**CREP:** In the survey process.

**Seeding Service:** Still 40 acre contract remaining; native grasses and pollinator.

**Vegetative Filter Strips:** No updates.

**Zonings**: Previously approved in text thread (printed copy available).

**Equipment Purchase:** Trail cameras, previously approved.

**Whitver Farm:** Richard has agreed to pull trees when Mike’s equipment is available.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** N/A.

NEW BUSINESS

**AISWCD Funding Bills:** decision will be made 5/31 when the state budget is voted upon.

**Prairie Chickens:** Pheasants have been spotted at Whitver.

**Agenda items for next meeting:** Scholarship applicants

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be held at Bonucci Farms on June 3rd at 8:15a.m.

**Adjournment:** Mike Thacker adjourned the meeting at 8:51a.m.

Minutes drafted and submitted by Ashley Wallace