



MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

5/13/2025

USDA

Board Members

Larry Kilmer

Chairman

John Fielding

Vice Chairman

John Demerly

Supervisor

Steve Cosgray

Supervisor

Rich Hines

Supervisor

Bruce Reynolds

Associate Supervisor

Staff

Katie Snowberger

District Administrator

PRESENT

John F, John D, Steve C, Rich H, Bruce R, Penny Titus, Courtney

Mcfall, Dave Davis, Katie S, Larry K.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:00am by John F

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion By: John D

Seconded By: Steve C

Motion Carried

3. STAFF & PARTNER REPORTS

Staff/Office Update

Katie presented past events and what events are upcoming. Discussed the placement of water test kits in current office or moving them to the health dept.

NRCS Update

Derek wasn't present, no update from him

ISDA Update

Geneva submitted her report

Extension Update

Marty presented updates and current events that will be taking place

Forestry event 5/15 and Soil class for 4Hers in June.

RC&D Update

Meeting in June to plan the annual meeting

Other Partners

Penny had no update. Other than they are working on the Big Beautiful Bill.

Other Cont.

Local Government Commissioner Dave Davis: New bills coming down from the state house, Property Tax is going to be updated, and there is potential for local government budgets to be squeezed.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Tree City

There are signs up for tree city that we are using as temporary signs, that Rich built and paid for the lumber (had receipts to hand in for approval) The plan is to check with Mitch and see what the plan is on how many signs we will need to have so we can order a group of the signs at a time. Once we have the amount figured out, we will be checking back in with the pyramid signs in Lafayette to talk about bulk ordering the Tree Monticello Signs.

Rich also mentioned to the group that we should start to work on getting the next location for a Tree City picked out. That way we can start the discussion with them and get the plans worked out. Will need to try to recover the presentation Mitch presented at the Annual Meeting in March. That will give the District all the information needed to present to the towns and to help with understanding the process. Mitch has been working on getting the ordinance figured out for the trees that can be planted, depending on the size of the location and the trees growth rates. Also getting ready to start the process of adding the tree city information and accessing information to the City Website.

Rich would like Katie and Mitch to go with him to check out the Tree city Lafayette signs to see what we can do to make it work for our locations in Monticello. That is because another location that is in for consideration is at the Roundabouts to make them the main sites for entering into the city. An idea is to place a larger sign there and a great place for a tree that will grow larger also. Katie is going to work on getting the contacts for the other towns together and work on getting them contacted to see if we can present the information about tree city to them.

Motion: To reimburse Rich for the cost of the lumber, paint and other supplies for the building of the frame for the Tree City Signs.

Motion By: Rich

Seconded By: John D

Motion Carried

Landfill Inspection

Discussed what is going to be needed from our district, since the current inspector for the landfill is going to be leaving. There were questions of to what extent are we able to help other

than the 2 inspections done during the year. Are we able to do water testing or do more in-depth inspections than what we are currently doing? This discussion has been tabled for a later date because there are many questions, we do not know the answers to, and the county is not sure what they are going to be needing from the SWCD.

Katie is going to be reaching out to the Supervisor at Liberty Landfill to set up a date to go out and inspect the landfill for our IDEM spring inspection. Once a date is picked, she will be emailing out to the board and to the commissioners to invite them if they are able to attend the site visit.

River Friendly Recommendations

As of right now there is not anyone in consideration for this award. If there is a recommendation, they will be brought to the board for consideration.

Friends of Conservation Award.

Considering looking outside the typically picked groups of Forestry, looking into conventional farming maybe an idea.

Mitch was brought up as an idea for nomination as he is a larger help to the city on Monticello on working on ways to improve the surrounding areas of the town. There is also discussion of extending that to not just Mitch but to also include the Monticello Parks Dept since they also are a huge role in conservation.

Plat Books

The pictures and information pages for the plat books have been submitted to Mapping Solutions. They are working on getting the plat books completed for us to have them in late June or July. We ordered 75 for the first order and will order more if needed.

Katie is going to make sure we are still within range of what the cost should be for them at the office. Right now, we are at 20.00 per plat book. The price change can depend on if the costs of making the plat books have gone up.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Domain Name Paper

Katie received in the mail a letter that was talking about our domain name. She wanted to verify with the board that this isn't something that needs to be paid. As we do have a website and domain established with goDaddy. The board and others looked over the paper and they said

this was more than likely a scam. Since we already pay for the domain through our website. Katie was informed to toss the mailing.

Big Pine Support Letter

Katie presented the group with the in-kind match support letter from Leslie with the big pine group. White Counties in-kind match is 10,000. It was asked if the board was still ok with the amount that was established before. As of right now Katie is ok with the items listed on the support letter so we can extend our help with Big Pine. The 319 Grant was awarded to continue with the Big Pine work, the funds will be going towards the work on the new park outside of Oxford.

Motion: Renew the support letter for the in-kind match for the Big Pine.

Motioned by: Steve C

Second by: John D

Motion Carried

6. OTHER

Business Plan

The board would like to see the business plan so that they can review the plan for the county and work on what they need to do to implement the plan more within the county. Katie is going to email the plan out to the board members.

County Comprehension Plan

Rich is planning on going to the meeting for the comprehension plan group next week. He wanted to ask everyone what they thought was their main concern for where they see the county going. There are three different types of focus groups.

“What is the vision of White County in 20yrs?” was the question Rich asked the board. The main focus for our county is Ag for conservation. There was discussion of data centers, wind mill, and solar panels. Another question asked was where do we compare to other counties, where should we be on industrial compared to where they are. Do we be more conservative on land zoning or not? The group was agreed upon on being more conservative on land zoning, such as not pro renewable using up fertile land for development.

Conservation Plot outside office

Upon having the meeting, we noticed the lawn care group for the office trimmed the conservation plot where we have our cover plot.

Motion: For the ability to purchase signs to be placed outside the plots to describe what we are doing and to spend funds to complete the plot such as garden fabric and stakes.

Motion by John D

Seconded by Larry K

Motion Carried

Board Meeting Recordings

Katie wanted to let the board/group know that there is a chance July 1st we will need to start video and voice recording the meetings for the public to have access to. Dave Davis mentioned we could get ahold of Mike C. at the county IT Dept to see if we could get the equipment for recording the meetings.

Expanding the Outdoor Grant

John Fielding wanted to check with Katie to see if she had heard from Mrs. Andrews about the outdoor grant. Katie had received an email requesting the grant. It was sent to Mrs Andrews but Katie hadn't heard back from her. Katie was going to send another email checking in to see if she had any questions.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:14am .

Next meeting will be held on:

5/13/2025

Time: 8:00am

USDA