

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Tuesday, July 15, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by Steve Byrum, Vice Chairperson. Those attending were Susan Kirkpatrick, Calvin Hartman, Michelle Gilbert, Kerry Smith, Sarah Brichford, Paul Marcellino, Mell Nevils, and Rene' Weaver. Shane Campbell arrived later and took over chairing the meeting.

Susan moved to approve the minutes of the July meeting. Motion seconded by Steve and passed. Minutes were signed by supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Rene' shared a letter from Sheryl Vaughn, IDEA Direction of the SNW region. The districts have been able to request reimbursement through Clean Water Indiana funds for training. The maximum for employees is \$500 and supervisors \$1,000. There has been discussion from the State Soil Conservation Board to discontinue this reimbursement method and to potentially use the funds in other ways. There are several districts who are very concerned about this possible change in funding and Sheryl addressed this in a letter.

On July 3 at 1 a.m. the district truck was t-boned in the parking lot. The individual responsible for the crash called the police and an accident report was filed. We have been notified by his insurance company that we are to obtain an estimate for the damages. Once the estimate has been sent to his insurance company we will decide how to proceed.

The district received a letter from ISDA concerning accountability for Clean Water Indiana Grants. Geneva may be contacting the district to review records to make sure that the grant is being administered the way the contract states.

Rene' presented the board with a potential speaker that she has already contacted for the annual meeting. Looking at the calendar, the date of the meeting would be Tuesday, February 10, 2015. Donya Lester is the Executive Director of Purdue Ag Alumni Association gives talks to various audiences. She is available on February 10, 2015. Steve made the motion to move forward securing Donya and Elite Conference Center for the 2015 annual meeting. Susan seconded and motion carried.

Our county budget hearing is scheduled for Thursday, August 21 at 1:30 p.m. Try to arrive at 1:15 p.m.

AGENCY REPORTS:

EXTENSION – Paul reported that the 2014 4-H fair is in the record books. He thanked the Greentown Lions for all of their support and assistance. The fair would not be possible without the Lions. His office is working on the invitations for the upcoming farmer meeting on August 5, at Elite Conference Center beginning at 7:30 am. This meeting is for the purpose of providing the farm community with information about the new farm bill and its components.

COUNTY STORMWATER – Sarah mentioned the 2-stage ditch near 700E and 300S. Plans are to try and get a 2-stage installed on the west side of the county. Near Northwestern High School would be a good location. The school would be able to monitor the ditch. She attended the 2-stage ditch field day held at Purdue. Bio reactors on a smaller scale is something else to consider. Rule 5 is going smoothly. Mell is getting responses

from the contractors. One pre-construction meeting has taken place. There are a couple more that should be happening soon.

Mell reported that there are currently 6 active sites he is monitoring. 3 of those sites should be closing out soon. 1 site has had the pre-construction meeting and should begin anytime.

Sarah and Mell talked about the upcoming conference in September (10-12) in Brown County. The membership dues are \$40.00 and Mell has paid the dues. The hotel room rate is \$129 but Mell will turn in the \$89 per night that was the conference rate. In order for him to stay at the lodge, he had to go with a higher room rate. Mell will cover the difference. Michelle moved to allow the reimbursement for the conference at the conference rate plus mileage and any meals. Steve seconded, motion carried.

Sarah reported that they are receiving many calls about log jams. She reminded everyone that the Wildcat Guardians are interested in knowing of the jams but they are not the organization to remove them. If it is not a regulated drain it is the landowner responsibility to remove the jam. If on a regulated drain the surveyor should be contacted.

The Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) has a grant for log jams. Sarah was going to look into the eligibility requirements. Rene' also has information on it.

The Wildcat Experience (W.E.) is approaching quickly, September 17 & 18. Sarah and Rene' will work together to get out the invitations. Plan is to canoe if the water level is good.

NRCS – Kerry reported that we have 16 EQIP applications. CSP contracts that are up for re-enroll will be able to automatically re-enroll. CSP is for 5 years.

Kerry presented fact sheets for EQIP, CSP, and ACEP. All but 1 of the 69 CRP contracts that were expiring have been field checked. Now comes paperwork. Kerry estimated that he has around 5-8 new signups for waterways and filter strips.

HEL and WL request are behind. He estimates there are 30 to do. He has one request, please fill out the paperwork at the FSA office prior to scheduling the work.

SWCD – Calvin reported that the meeting for the On-Farm Network will be on January 20, 2015, 8:00 a.m. in Tipton.

He will be attending a meeting in Indianapolis on August 18 and should get all the information and equipment at the meeting.

CRP re-enrolls field work complete. He is ready to begin field work for surveys.

FSA – Deadline for crop certification and certification for crop insurance is today. Lisa mentioned the August 5 farmer meeting. After certification bases and yields are the next step. Programs may be selected once this is done. Two other meetings are scheduled for this. One meeting is set for August 18 at the Honeywell Center in Wabash beginning at 9:30 the other one in Lafayette on August 18 beginning at 6:30.

There will be approximately 1 ½ months to enroll in CRP.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

RC&D – The Junior Master Naturalist program is underway with good response. A Master Naturalist program is scheduled for the fall in Clinton County.

A meeting was held here at the office last week to discuss a possible RCPP application. This will be a partnership project with The Nature Conservancy, County Surveyor, County Stormwater District, Kosciusko and Jasper County SWCD's, along with Notre Dame. Notre Dame is currently working with Kosciusko on 2-stage ditch installations. They have been monitoring and are seeing improvements to the Shatto ditch with just the 2-stage. This application will be for 2-stage ditches paired with cover crops. Howard County was selected due to some of the work currently being performed here in the county with 2-stage ditches and cover crops. The target ditch is the Henry Gilbert ditch. It is approximately 3,000 ft. in length, minimal landowners with little to no cover crops. Right now a pre-proposal is being drafted by Notre Dame. If the project is selected, then the proposal will move forward.

The RC&D is also submitting a pre-proposal for the RCPP. This one will involve increasing wetland sites in floodplain areas. This is an existing application that has been submitted previously through a different program and was not funded. The RC&D decided to submit again through RCPP and see what happens.

The rain garden workshop for Howard County did not get approval. There will be an intermediate workshop in Tippecanoe County. Sarah Brichford commented that Stormwater would be happy to assist in planning a rain garden workshop for Howard County. She suggested finding a location where a rain garden could be planted and have attendees actually help to plant the garden.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Rene' presented the claims for payment. Shane moved to approve the claims as presented. Steve seconded and motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rene' reported that there is a Women's Learning Circle meeting scheduled for August 18, 2014 in Russiaville at the Community Center. This meeting is for women only and is meant to bring professionals together with women who are taking a larger role in the farming operation. Some of these women have inherited farm ground or work closely with their spouses.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver _____

WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.

DATE: _____