

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Tuesday, November 5, 2013

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Shane Campbell at 9:10 a.m. Present were Michelle Gilbert, Paul Marcellino, Kerry Smith, Calvin Hartman, Sarah Lake, Sarah Brichford, Jim Stites, Don Cree, and Rene' Weaver. Absent were Steve Byrum and Glenn Stephens.

Michelle moved to approve the minutes of the September meeting as written. Jim seconded, motion carried and minutes were signed.

NEW BUSINESS:

After discussing several dates in December to meet it was agreed that the next meeting will be on Wednesday, December 18 at 9:00 a.m. Following the meeting we will be going to lunch at Half Moon. Rene' will make reservations for 11:00 a.m.

Calvin talked to the board about purchasing an I Pad for doing MS4 reviews. Stormwater has recently upgraded their programming and will now be able to use I Pads for the reviews. This will enable Calvin to do reports on-site and to take photographs and send them directly to Stormwater. Two options were presented for review. After discussion, Shane moved to allow \$750.00 towards the purchase of an I Pad with 32 GB and a case. Michelle seconded and motion carried.

Rene' shared with the board an opportunity to participate in a Green Festival to be held at the Galveston Park in April of 2014. She was contacted by a girl that is in scouts and is organizing the event. It will be 2-5 on a Saturday. Rene' offered to work the event. The board was in favor of participating.

The district continues to receive applications to cap abandoned water wells. The current balance of the cost-share account is less than \$100. In the past, \$2,000 has been allocated for cost-share. Jim moved to allow \$2,000 toward the well capping program. Michelle seconded, motion carried.

Rene' shared information about a fall field day in Clinton Co. for cover crops and soil health. It is going to take place towards the end of November. With such short notice all agreed they would rather hold something in the spring. We will assist in promoting the event for Clinton Co.

It is time to select a Conservation Farmer and a Conservationist to be recognized at the annual meeting. After a review of potential individuals it was decided. Michelle moved to honor the John Garr family for Conservation Farmer, Shane seconded, motion carried. Michelle moved to honor Garry Hill as Conservationist, Jim seconded motion carried.

The annual conference in Indianapolis will be January 6-8, 2014. We need to have a supervisor be our delegate at the business meeting which will be on January 8, 9:30 – noon. Michelle, Shane, and Jim have all participated in the conference in past years. They made the recommendation that Steve and Glenn attend and have one or the other represent the SWCD at the business meeting as our delegate and the other is our alternate. Rene' will notify them and see if they are willing to go to all or a part of the conference.

It is time to renew our Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Kokomo for MS4. Don was here at the meeting to represent the city. Shane moved to accept the MOU, Michelle seconded, motion carried and MOU signed.

Rene' reviewed a pilot program that is being presented by the State Soil Conservation Board. The program is a three-year program and there are two options available that follow the Taskforce 2016 and Beyond recommendations. Option I is to have a District Support Specialist that would be concentrated in 2-5 counties working together on conservation projects.

Option 2 is to hire an executive director that would work with 2-5 counties in the pilot program. The SWCD would work across county boundaries concentrating on conservation projects and education.

We have learned that the SSCB has committed to funding two pilot projects, one using each of the scenarios. There are a lot of questions coming from the districts. One big concern is how county officials will feel about their employees crossing county boundaries when they are paying the salaries. The board feels that until these concerns are met they would like to hold off on pursuing a proposal.

AGENCY REPORTS:

FSA- Lisa reported that for FY2013, they had 641 CRP contracts, from 813 producers, for a total of 1422.8 acres and \$259,844.00. For continuous CRP at the end of 2013 there were 89 contacts, totaling 169.9 acres out of 97 producers. With no farm program in place they cannot put anything into the program at this time. For FY 2014 there are 79 re-enrolls. They have been able to process all of the CRP annual payments and CRP and ACRE payments with the exception of contracts with problems. Deadline for wheat certification is December 15, no exceptions. There will be late filing fees if certified after the 15th. Apples must be certified by January 15, and all other crops the deadline is July 15, 2014. If you know of anyone who has wheat, please spread the word about the deadline. Lisa also plans to send a postcard for the deadline. Eligibility and AGI, there is no word when this will be ready.

EXTENSION – Paul reported that he has been very busy with the Land Lease State Team holding meetings around the state. These meetings have been well attended. It is a way for landlords and tenants to connect. Currently there are fact sheets moving through the approval process at Purdue. Once those sheets are approved, they will be made available to the public.

Several events are on the extension calendar. Outlook meeting with Kokomo Grain on December 3, December 3 & 10 there will be a goat and sheep webinar, PQA joint with Carroll County on December 2, PARP on December 17 in Howard County during the day, January 7 bee school with a beekeeper, starting a Master Gardener program on January 6, January 23 and 24 there will be a Farming Together, Family Transition Seminar. If you attend, you will receive 1 day with a professional for succession planning. This will be at the Beck Center, Women in Ag will be February 19 and 20 in Fort Wayne, beginning February 26, Wednesday nights will be management and marketing meetings. These will be held in different counties because they are joint extensions putting on the meetings. November 30, 10:00 a.m. McClure Orchard will be a fruit tree pruning workshop. November 20 is the Extension Annual Meeting at the fairgrounds beginning at 6:00 p.m.

COUNTY STORMWATER – Sarah reported that she had given a Project WET class at IUK. She was one of the presenters at the Master Naturalist Program in Delphi. IDEM had renewed the NPDS permit for Stormwater. As Calvin mentioned earlier, new software has been released and should make reporting easier to do. Work flow on on-sites and reporting is going well. Calvin has been keeping up with the inspections. They would like to be conducting pre-construction meeting on-site very soon. Contractors are to notify the Stormwater district within 48 hours of beginning work so a meeting can be scheduled. Sarah has been working on trying to clean up the Notice of Termination files.

CITY STORMWATER – Don reported with the city annexing more property he has been working on updating the BMP and outfall lists. He has met with the robotics team from Central Middle School. They are working towards an activity that would benefit the community. A robot for rescue is one of their ideas. He has also met with them to discuss uses for the flood site where Kokomo has purchased and demolishing the houses that were

destroyed in the April flooding. A presentation has been given to the city engineer and the mayor for their review. Other floodplain storage projects are being looked at. Sarah Brichford asked about a fish survey conducted by Greg Bright. Don said the work is complete and they are waiting on the report. He continues to separate the combine sewer overflows. Concentration has been on Markland Ave. quarry and near the city building and middle school. There is also a site near Omni Source that is now separated.

NRCS – Kerry reported that NRCS is currently taking EQIP/WHIP applications for 2014. As of now the 1st round of funding will be the middle of January to first of February. As Lisa stated earlier new CRP applications are on hold for now. Calvin will begin working on re-enrolls soon. Anything with an existing contract may be work on. Kerry has a backlog of about 30 wetland requests. This is his priority right now.

SWCD – Rene’ reported that she has begun working in the plans for the annual meeting. Calvin has started doing survey work and some design work. A fencing program has been checked along with a waterway and grass planting. He and Sarah continue to survey as the weather permits. He has worked on the cover crop research project and the On-Farm Network project.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

RC&D – Last meeting was cancelled due to the shutdown. Next meeting is set for December 17.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Rene’ presented the claims for payment. Michelle moved to approve the claims as presented. Shane seconded, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rene’ updated the board on annual meeting plans. Date is set for February 10, 2014. Location will be the Elite Banquet and Conference Center on LaFountain Street. Fred Whitford is our speaker. Meal per person was quoted at \$15.00. The menu was discussed and all agreed to go with chicken and noodles, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls, and salad. Rene’ will talk with Mr. Trine to see if he would be willing to charge less. We still need names of individuals for the supervisor election. We need at least one name. It must be in by December 1. Rene’ sent information that explains duties of a supervisor and what is a SWCD to about 4 individuals. She will follow up next week with a phone call.

Calvin reported that Knox County has received a contribution agreement with NRCS for CRP work. Knox County took the lead and it is a statewide program. This is the second contribution agreement for CRP work that Knox County has received. We received approximately \$16,000 from this agreement and the work that Calvin did for CRP.

The Clean Water Indiana Grant proposal for 2014 for technical assistance did not get funded. Counties may decide to try again next year for 2015.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene’ Weaver _____

WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.

_____ DATE: _____