

March 3, 2022

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. Those present were Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, Peg Wright, Kelly Adams, Mike Johnson, David Trotter, Jennifer Kipper, Tami Kruer, and Melanie Davis.

Sam asked for additions or corrections to the February minutes. Peg moved to approve the minutes as written; Kelly seconded, and the motion carried.

Sam asked for questions on the Financial Report. Kelly moved to approve the report; Dana seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business

Grant updates:

319 14 Mile Creek – Kathleen Hagan, IDEM, reported to the board on the status of the additional funds we were expecting to receive. She stated that the paperwork is currently held at the Region 5 office awaiting signature. If paperwork is not signed off on by 3/31/22, the funds (\$131,050, which are 2016 funds) will expire, and will not be available to us. David stated that he currently has a waitlist of applicants, however, the grant will end on 12/31/22; final report to be submitted by 12/27/22. With that in mind, he feels a cutoff date of October 1 to have projects completed would be appropriate. After discussion, consensus was to request an extension of the grant project. Peg moved to ask for a 1-year extension of the project; Dana seconded, and motion carried. Peg suggested contacting one of our congressmen for assistance in speeding up the signing of the documents.

Melanie stated that CCHIRP's next meeting will be March 7th. The partners in the NACD grant will be meeting at Lapping Park on 3/30 to discuss the activities needed to fulfill the grant, and to select locations for the 5 native plant gardens.

Tami stated that the scholarship review committee was recommending that Heidi Hughes receive the 2022 Marvin Wright scholarship. Heidi will be attending Ball State, majoring in Conservation and Wildlife Biology. Two applications were received for consideration, both from New Washington High School. Peg moved to accept the committee's recommendation and award the scholarship to Heidi. Kelly seconded, and motion carried.

Repair of the no-till drill was discussed. One person has called to rent the drill. Melanie advised them that it was not currently available. Supervisors will coordinate the repair.

Election of officers was held. Peg moved to keep officers the same: Sam, District Chair; Dana, Vice-Chair; Tami, Treasurer. Kelly seconded, and motion carried.

No other old business.

New Business

The Annual Financial Report (AFR), and district policies, previously reviewed, were distributed for signing.

4-H Fair was discussed. Melanie suggested hiring a landscaping company to cleanup the native plant beds, mulch the path, and trim tree branches in the exhibit area. After discussion, consensus was to solicit bids for the work. Work should be completed by the end of June. Melanie stated that Mark Johnson submitted a bid of \$599 to mow the exhibit area for 2022. Peg moved to accept his bid; Dana seconded, and motion carried. Melanie asked if supervisors would like to have in-person programs during the fair: Silly Safari's program cost is \$700; Mark Booth's raptor program is \$250. Supervisors agreed to book those. Options for obtaining butterflies for the butterfly house were considered. It was decided to order from Idlewild in Louisville. Butterflies can be picked up on Monday morning of the fair. Closing the exhibit on Friday was considered, but it was agreed to stay open for this year and see what effect moving the livestock auction to Saturday morning has on the crowd.

Tami presented information from Mapping Solutions on printing a new plat book for Clark/Floyd counties. Last plat book was printed with them by Floyd County in 2018. Supervisors felt that it would not be worthwhile to print a new book.

No other new business.

Staff Reports

Jennifer Kipper submitted a written report. She stated that she will be focusing on EQIP the next couple of weeks; general CRP deadline is 3/11/22; staffing levels are back to 75%; cover crop transect will be occurring in March; she will be out of the office 3/14-3/18/22 with Jenny Vogel acting in her absence; she will have civil rights info for review at the next board meeting; and she is aware that the DC position for Clark County has been created, but has not been advertised yet.

Tami Kruer submitted a written report.

Melanie Davis submitted a written report.

David Trotter submitted a written report and highlighted a few items.

Lynn Miller was not present for a report.

Mike Johnson reported that all CWI funds for livestock related practices have been allocated, however there are still funds available for pasture and cover crop projects. A waitlist has been created for livestock projects, and producers have been notified of the status of their applications. Mike noted that there is \$142,000 that was turned away by a multi-partner CWI project, that the SSCB must now decide on how to allocate. Allocating to CREP, the Pathway to Water Quality, and distributing to current CWI grant recipients are options the SSCB will consider at their next meeting.

Correspondence/Announcements:

None.

With no further business, Sam adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.