

May 7, 2021

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, May 6, at 8:30 a.m. Those present were Sam Hagest, Loren Christman, Dana Coots, Peg Wright, Kelly Adams, Tami Kruer, Jennifer Kipper, Laura Fribley, and Melanie Davis.

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

Sam asked for questions on the Financial Report. Loren moved to approve the report as written; Peg seconded, and the motion carried.

### Old Business

#### Grant updates:

- 319 14 Mile Creek – Tami reported that David had contacted Kathleen regarding the additional funds we were to get this year. According to Kathleen, IDEM is waiting on approval from the EPA before they can distribute the funds. A concern is that these funds, since they are from 2016, must be spent before the end of this year. It may be difficult to get projects applied for and completed in time to accomplish that.
- CWI 2021 – Melanie met virtually with Laura Fribley, Mike, and Kristin (Jefferson Co.) for questions and concerns about inputting grant info into new GMS system.
- INPS (Indiana Native Plants) 2021 – Jennifer will be taking signs and materials for boot brush stations to Clark State Forest office immediately following today's board meeting. DNR personnel will install the stations.
- IFFE (Indiana Forestry Education Foundation) – Tool buckets are ready for rental. Kaila will be posting on Facebook to get the word out; Melanie prepared a news release that the Clark County Herald has ran already. Rental is \$20 refundable deposit when buckets are returned, and items are clean.
- SICIM CISMA grant – The award of \$592 for the cost of installing a native garden at Charlestown State Park has been paid to the District. Kaila and Melanie visited with the Park Naturalist to discuss the location of the garden, and because of maintenance issues, decided the best spot would be in front of the Park office. The garden will be planted immediately following the 6/5 Weed Wrangle.
- IN American 2021 – Application was submitted to assist City of Charlestown in removing the line of Bradford Pear trees from Hwy. 3. No word yet on whether we were approved.

CCHIRP's next Weed Wrangle will be on 6/5/21, 9 a.m.-noon, at the Charlestown State Park. CCHIRP will also be planting the native garden funded through the SICIM grant immediately following the Wrangle. Kaila and Melanie met with the Park Naturalist, Jeremy Beavin, a few weeks ago. Jeremy was concerned

over maintenance on the garden if it was located at the Trail 3 trailhead, and also with people vandalizing it. He offered garden space in front of the Park office; the garden will be located there.

Katie has distributed a fair schedule listing the events that will take place during the Clark County 4-H Fair, July 9-17. Information is basic now, no details as to whether there will be commercial exhibits, animals kept on the grounds, etc. The fair will be open to the general public, however. SWCD staff, and Jennifer, have been working to clean up the plant beds in the exhibit area. As per last meeting discussion, consensus was to clean up the area, have displays outside of the exhibit building for pass-through viewing, opening the butterfly house to controlled traffic or viewing from outside the screen, and, in general, encourage social distancing in the area. Melanie canceled the Silly Safaris program, which had been scheduled from last year.

Dana asked the status of the drill. To date it is working, and it is currently rented out.

No other old business.

#### New Business

Melanie stated that due to Extension opening their office to visitors, a couple of instances have occurred where people have come in the front door, and then directly into the SWCD office – one wearing a mask, and the other wearing one incorrectly. She asked if the board would be opposed to modifying the front door of the office into a split door, which would allow opening the top portion of the door, and leaving the bottom closed to block traffic. After discussion, board members stated that they would not be opposed to altering the door, or to finding another workable option to block traffic. Jennifer is going to bring this up at the next FAC meeting to get their thoughts.

Peg asked if any SWCD's were supporting the veto of the Senate Enrolled Act (SEA) 389, wetlands bill. Information on the bill was sent from the State office to all SWCDs. The bill may already have been signed into law by the Governor. Jennifer stated that the bill does not have an effect on how NRCS deals with wetlands.

Laura Fribley reported that Region Meetings will be occurring in June. All meetings are via Zoom; registration is required. All meetings will give partner updates at the beginning of the meeting; one District project will be highlighted at the end. Each meeting has a different project to highlight, so if you have set through the partner updates for one meeting, and want to listen to the highlighted project section, you can just join for that portion. The Southeast meeting will be 6/10 at 7 p.m. ISDA is currently working on training sessions for Districts, the first of which would occur in July. More information on these will be forthcoming. Luke Britt, Public Access Counselor, has been monitoring public access law as it pertains to SWCDs hosting virtual meetings. Currently, virtual meetings are allowed.

Landfill operations, and inspections, was discussed.

No other new business.

#### Staff Reports

Jennifer Kipper submitted a written report, and highlighted items within it. She explained GovDelivery, which FSA has been using for some time now that allows them to send out deadline and other information to customers. NRCS is now included in this service, and can share SWCD items as well. She asked for the CCHIRP plant sale to be included this month.

Tami Kruer stated that a post on the City of Charlestown's site stated that construction had begun on Pleasant Ridge, however, they do not have an approved plan that she can tell. She is waiting to hear from the State whether they have issued a permit, or what the status of the project is. Charlestown is not an MS4, therefore, they are not bound by the regulations that other municipalities the SWCD assists are.

Melanie Davis submitted a written report.

David Trotter was not present for a report.

Lynn Miller was not present for a report.

Mike Johnson was not present for a report.

Correspondence/Announcements:

None.

With no further business, Sam adjourned the meeting at 9:35 a.m.