

November 7, 2019

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, November 7, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Those present were Sam Hagest, Loren Christman, Dana Coots, Peg Wright, Amil Kleinert, Jennifer Kipper, Tami Kruer, Mike Johnson, and Melanie Davis.

Sam asked for additions or corrections to the October 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; Peg seconded, and the motion carried.

Old Business

Grant updates: 319 14 Mile Creek – David has been processing project applications. Payment was received on Pat Larr's project yesterday. Newsletter was mailed recently.

CWI 2018 – Two project applications were presented for signature – Doug Burgin, and Book's Dairy & Produce.

CWI 2020 – The District's application was not funded.

Annual Meeting: Melanie stated that she had failed to submit Loren's paperwork for reappointment by the November 1st deadline. Laura Fribley notified Tami and Melanie on the evening of 11/1; Tami attempted to login from home, but was unsuccessful. Melanie saw the notification on 11/2, and submitted Loren's information, however, Laura stated that a Vacant Supervisor position form needed to be completed, and a letter submitted stating why the deadline was not met. Melanie has completed those steps. SSCB will need to approve before moving forward with the reappointment. Kaila Knies, Regional CISMA rep, was suggested as the speaker for Annual Meeting. Melanie will contact her to see if she is available.

CISMA: Nine people attended the call-out meeting on 10/29. Matthew Darling from the Clark County Health Department was especially enthused about the project, and was willing to help spearhead it. Another father/daughter couple represented the neighborhood they lived in, and they were very interested and willing to help. The next meeting date will be 12/4 at 6 p.m. in the Service Center conference room.

Melanie stated that she has been corresponding with Coast to Coast Advertising regarding printing the banners for the soil health tunnel she and Tami plan to create in the exhibit building during fair. The graphic designer at Coast to Coast stated that it would take a lot of time (and design hour \$\$) to manipulate the graphics into a vertical format as Tami and Mel originally requested, therefore it was decided to split the graphics into four horizontal banners. Cost of the four banners and two pollinator banners will be \$444.98, which is well under budget.

Leadership Institute – Impacting Community, will be 12/6/19, in Madison, IN. Deadline to register is 11/25/19. Loren will attend; Peg and Amil will advise if they plan to.

No other old business.

New Business

Melanie stated that quality of color copies on the District copy machine has been deteriorating for some time. M & M's staff has advised that they have made all the adjustments they can make to improve the quality, but it is still poor. Melanie presented quotes from M & M, and Commonwealth Technology, for a new 3253ci machine. M & M's quote is \$4,859.00, and includes a discount of the selling price, and \$500 trade-in on the old machine; a per copy price was not stated for the maintenance agreement. Currently, the District pays \$0.07 per color copy, and \$0.015 for black and white. Commonwealth quoted \$4,175.00 with a service contract based on graduated copy prices: \$0.008 for B&W, \$0.03 for color at <5% coverage, \$0.04 for color at 5-10% coverage, and \$0.05 for color at >10% coverage. Supervisors asked Melanie to confirm with M & M what the per copy charge would be under their agreement, and if they could come closer to or match Commonwealth's price. Melanie will also confirm whether Commonwealth's quote included a trade-in value for the District's old machine.

The Washington County SWCD has requested \$100 sponsorship of its 2020 Regional Soil Health Workshop. Loren moved to sponsor the workshop in the amount of \$100; Dana seconded, and motion carried.

NACD's annual membership request was reviewed. Loren moved to make a \$501, Silver level, contribution. Peg seconded, and motion carried.

4-H Fair: Melanie was contacted by Silly Safaris to see if the District would like to schedule them for an appearance at the 2020 fair. Price for the presentation is \$500. After discussion, supervisors advised Melanie to schedule them. Melanie stated that the District Forester, Maddie Westbrook, identified the invasive species in the exhibit area – several occurrences of Autumn Olive, and 2 honeysuckle varieties - as well as a poison ivy vine. She suggested cutting the plants down and treating the stumps with herbicide. Work on cutting down and treating the plants scheduled for spring.

Annual Conference is January 12-14, 2020. Deadline for early bird registration is 12/6/19; hotel reservations 12/13/19. Copies of the resolutions to be considered at the IASWCD business meeting were distributed. Sam, Dana, and Loren will attend; Peg will not attend; Amil undecided.

Tami stated that the SBOA performed an online audit of the District records recently. She received an email stating that their "procedures did not result in any comments; therefore, an official response is not necessary." However, a second email included an attached form for the District to signoff that it accepted the comments. Supervisors asked Tami to confirm whether signing and returning the form was necessary, and if it is, to submit the form.

QPI training will be held November 20th. Tami requested having Nicholson's print manuals for the participants since the District's copy machine is not making quality copies currently. Nicholson's has quoted \$14.70 per manual. There are currently 16 people registered for the class, and Tami anticipates more before the deadline; 25 to 30 manuals maybe needed. Loren moved to authorize up to \$441.00 (30 manuals) to print the manuals. Dana seconded, and motion carried.

There are presently no requests to use the no-till drill. It will be moved under cover soon, and Dana will order parts so that repairs to the small seed box can be completed.

Christmas dinner was discussed. Loren suggested Neal & Patty's Fireside grill as a location. Tami will check on availability.

Staff Reports

Jennifer Kipper submitted a written report. She noted that there is no application cutoff date set for EQIP, and applications can be submitted anytime. CRP general signup may start 12/3/19. Training dates and info for that will be released soon. She has several meetings and trainings upcoming, and will keep staff informed of her schedule. She will not be at the December SWCD meeting. Supervisory district conservationists, and Farm bill assistant positions have been filled. Karen Hauer is helping Jennifer to organize landowner files by tract number, which will make locating files much easier.

Tami Kruer submitted a written report of her activities. Tami noted that the Land Trust closed on the Haggard easement October 29th, and everything went smoothly.

Melanie Davis submitted a written report of her activities.

David Trotter submitted a written report of his activities.

Lynn Miller was not present for a report.

Mike Johnson stated that ISDA is currently reclassifying the roles of District Support Specialists and Resource Specialists in an effort to retain employees. ISDA has identified a pattern of employees moving on to other positions or positions within NRCS; they are crediting this to higher salary rates at the other agencies. Mike's title will be changing, and salaries will be increased 7-12% depending on the position. Mike informed the board that Vicki has left her position with the Jefferson County SWCD, but has been retained to assist with CWI and other matters until a replacement can be found. He also noted that Franklin County SWCD received funding for their CWI 2020 proposal to purchase a new no-till drill.

Correspondence/Announcements:

None.

With no further business, Sam adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.