

April 10, 2017

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, April 6, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Those present were Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, Carolyn Clark, Loren Christman, Luanne Stahly, Tami Kruer, Mike Johnson, and Melanie Davis.

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

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

Old Business

Soil testing – Discussion was held as whether to keep the program as a service and absorb most of the mailing costs, or raise the fees and have the customer pay the postage. Dana moved to keep the testing as a service through the end of this year. Luanne seconded and motion carried. Melanie will track the number of soil test customers in Quickbooks.

Tami noted that the Outback GPS unit has been repaired.

No other Old Business.

New Business

Clean Water Indiana 2018 – Proposals for the 2018 grant cycle are being accepted through September 15, 2017. Mike stated that Vicki in Jefferson County has several producers that are just outside the watershed boundaries of the current 319 grants that her county is involved in. She would like to have funds to offer those producers instead of turning them away, and thinks CWI might be a way to do that. The proposal would be for installing livestock practices such as paddocks, and fencing livestock out of streams. Clark County would be a likely partner, but Vicki has also approached Ripley County with the idea. Supervisors were agreeable to partnering, but the project will need Jefferson County SWCD board approval to move forward. Loren suggested that if our District partnered on the grant, that we contribute \$10,000 of District funds to the project in order to get more practices on the ground.

Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship – Tami stated that the Scholarship Committee received only one application. The committee approved the application, however, they would understand if the SWCD board wanted to extend the deadline. The applicant, Colin Schindler, is studying at Purdue, and has a GPA of 3.9. Carolyn moved to accept Colin's application and award him the scholarship. Loren seconded and motion carried.

River Friendly Farmer – Applications are due June 16, 2017. Paul Higbie was suggested as a candidate. Staff will contact him through his son, Rick.

The Ripley County SWCD is hosting a Grazing for the Future Conference on August 17, 2017. Dr. Jan Pol, DVM, reality t.v. personality, will be the guest speaker. Registration deadline is 8/7/17. Luanne stated that she would attend.

Carolyn presented information on Freshwater Fred, mascot of the Hoosier Energy Environmental Education Center. The mascot is used to engage students in learning about the environment. She suggested scheduling him as part of our 4-H fair activities. Staff will inquire for scheduling information.

Luanne stated that she had checked the inside of the new exhibit building to see where it needed to be sealed. She noted areas where water had been standing, and had damaged some items. She will work on getting someone to seal the building. She suggested options for altering the non-load bearing wall to provide more exhibit space if staff desired. Also, the split rail fence is in need of repair, and the old electric box needs to be covered up before visitors come through.

No other New Business.

Staff Reports

Jennifer Kipper, NRCS District Conservationist, was not present, but submitted a written report of her activities.

Tami Kruer, Executive Director, presented a written report of her activities.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities. She noted that proposals are being accepted for 2018 319 grant funds. According to Kathleen Hagan, the application process is proceeding as normal until they are notified otherwise. Kathleen also stated that she is woefully behind on reviewing the Fourteen Mile Creek WMP.

Lynn Miller, Urban Specialist, was not present.

Mike Johnson, ISDA Resource Specialist, stated that most all of the producers enrolled in InField Advantage have re-enrolled for this year. Jefferson County has had requests from other producers wanting to sign-up, and they will probably be able to accommodate them.

Correspondence/Announcements

None

With no further business, Sam adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Davis