

May 5, 2017

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. Those present were Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, Carolyn Clark, Loren Christman, Luanne Stahly, Tami Kruer, Jennifer Kipper, Mike Johnson, and Melanie Davis.

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

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

Old Business

Marvin Wright Conservation Scholarship – The Community Foundation has asked the District to confirm the amount of the scholarship award. Historically, \$1,000 has been awarded; last year was an exception in the amount of \$1,250. Carolyn moved to set the scholarship amount at \$1,000. Loren seconded and motion carried.

River Friendly Farmer – Tami put together the application paperwork. Mike is going to contact the Higbie's, and explain the award before the application is sent out. District will provide assistance with completing it if necessary.

CWI 2018 Grant – No further word from Jefferson County as to whether they would like to proceed with Clark County as their sole partner.

Exhibit Area – Dan Cristiani's workers removed the fish tank this week. The workers also excavated the 2 native plant beds, and sealed around the bottom of the new building. Dan instructed them to fill the beds with top soil, however that has not been completed yet. Workers removed the split rail fence next to the gray building to get access to the tank; they noted the fence was rotted. Staff stated that Art Pratt, Master Gardener that is helping with the bluebird trail, was in the office this week and will be assessing the exhibit area for the placement of bluebird boxes. Melanie and Luanne visited Greg at Streamcliff Farm to view the water features, and learn how he installed and maintains them. Greg recommended leaving the pumps and water in the ponds year-round; minimal cleaning will need to be done in the spring. He also recommended bringing in native fish just for the duration of the fair. Carolyn moved to pursue creating a water feature. Luanne seconded, and motion carried. Melanie plans to speak with Tom about getting the chain gang to remove the mulch from the tree path and replace it with ag lime. Loren mentioned advertising the District's activities in the fair program, however, the nightly schedule has not been confirmed yet. Staff will check with Extension to see if a short write-up can be included that would direct people to the exhibit area.

No other Old Business.

New Business

Mike Johnson distributed a short survey for staff and supervisors to complete regarding the Leadership Institute workshops.

Melanie has been in discussion with Katie (Extension) regarding hosting a Bison event in conjunction with her Color Run to be held on Saturday, 6/17/17, from 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Roam will be clear-coated and in his permanent spot next to the indoor arena (area around him will be mulched and flowers planted by Master Gardeners). The theme of the meal that will be served, and activities that the SWCD would be in charge of is the "Wonderful World of Food" – the Indiana State Fair theme. Items served as the meal will help the District promote the role of agriculture in our daily lives and the farmers who produce our food, i.e., fruit/pickles on-a-stick (tree farmer), pickles (cucumber farmer), beef or pork burgers (beef or hog farmer). Displays, and food-themed activities will highlight additional food farmers; displays will also explain how a food item makes it from farm to table. Carolyn moved to contribute \$100 towards the purchase of food for the event. Luanne seconded, and motion carried.

No other New Business.

Staff Reports

Jennifer Kipper, NRCS District Conservationist, submitted a written report of her activities, and highlighted items within it. She noted that a letter is being sent to producers to educate them about limiting the spread of Palmer amaranth, a highly competitive, rapid growing weed. It is not on the noxious list at this time.

Tami Kruer, Executive Director, presented a written report of her activities. She stated that 12 individuals completed the recent QPI training course.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities.

Lynn Miller, Urban Specialist, was not present.

Correspondence/Announcements

Leadership In Change Workshop, June 9, 2017; ICP Leadership email regarding District visits; IASWCD 2016 Annual Report Summary.

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

Respectfully submitted, Melanie Davis