

April 28, 2017

Supervisors Present: Mark Jordan, Mark Kingma, Lana Zimmer, and Kyler Laird

Supervisors Absent: Derek Luchik

Staff Present: Dan Perkins, Leslie Davisson, and Carolyn Ahler

Associates Present:

Partners Present: Jared O'Brien and Kevin Shide

Citizens Present:

I. Call to Order

Chairman Kyler Laird called the meeting to order at 8:05am CST.

II. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes were presented for approval. Mark J motioned to approve the minutes and Mark K seconded. Minutes were approved.

III. Treasurer's Report, Claims (on back)

The treasurer's report and claims in the amount of \$53,880.04 for March were presented for approval. Large amount this month due to 319 cost share, travel, meetings, and roller crimper purchase. After a few questions and comments about the report, Lana motions to approve the report and claims, and Mark J seconded. Motion approved.

IV. Correspondence

Leslie and Dan presented some correspondence from Porter Co SWCD, IASWCD, and a KV student.

V. Old Business

5.1 Vehicle Policy

Mark K made his case for the purchase of a district vehicle able to be driven to and from home. Other members think that makes owning a vehicle too complicated for now.

Leslie will ask Rob Lawson about the current NRCS vehicle policy regarding usage by non-NRCS employees.

Kyler suggested a log of whereabouts for the next month to get a better picture of the average travel ranges to avoid unnecessary inefficiencies that leaving the vehicle in the parking lot every night might cause. Dan will present at the next meeting.

5.2 and 5.3 EPA 319 Grant-NOI and current progress

We met with our IDEM grant administrator, Chelsea Cottingham, to discuss our current progress and ideas for the next round of 319. We are on track to complete our current implementation grant and have already met our match obligations. Still working out the current water monitoring void left by Saint Joe closing. Access to the spectrophotometer and lab is still uncertain. City does have lab space at the WWTP.

NOI for 2018 grants is due June 1, 2017. Options for our next 319 grant are a WMP for the local portion of the Kankakee and/or a smaller implementation grant for the Iroquois. 319 implementation no longer pays for water monitoring. Could keep water testing going with smaller local grants or CWI. Get draft NOI(s) to the board before the next meeting via email.

5.4 Wheatfield Well Testing

Last round of RC&D well testing is underway and has been opened up to the entire county. Letters are being sent to Wheatfield residents, as that is where we would like to focus. Kit orders are regularly coming in. Whatever funds aren't spent on cost share after this round will go towards postage used to send out the mailings.

5.5 Rain Barrels

We are getting low on rain barrels, but board decided not to purchase any more at this time.

5.6 Leadership Institute Survey

None of the current board members have completed the program, but gist was that it is a good program but feel that current board possess the necessary skills and are often not able to take the time to attend. Leslie will get responses from Jim Martin and Dave Rodibaugh, associate supervisors who have completed the course. She will forward the information to Jared O'Brien.

5.7 Farm Programs Report

It is about time to plant into crimping plots. Dan is in need of a tractor as Kyler's are tied up. Macallister might be able to donate the use of a tractor to plant in the cereal rye and pull the crimper in exchange for proper acknowledgement. If not, Mark K and Lana motioned up to \$2000 to pay for fuel, tractor use, etc.... Motion carried.

Dan has been invited out to OR to tour research CC farms in May. All expenses paid trip that the district will benefit from. Lana motions to split Dan's time between district and vacation and Mark J seconds. Motion approved.

3/27 Organic Grains meeting was a success. There is a lot of interest moving to that market. A good mixture of experienced and novice organic farmers were present. There was some concern on the part of the board if this is the route we want to take. Yes, because we want fair representation of all the things going on in our county and help present excessive plow usage.

A couple of soil pits with some conventional farmers that were first time CC users has occurred and was beneficial.

Mark J is having trouble getting a strip till rig over to his place for a demo. Dan will reach out to Dawn and others to see if they can help get this done. Mark J still has a desire to do a pit-next week, and has a couple of neighbors that might be interested in checking it out.

Mark J did an interview out at his farm with Sara Church of Purdue to discuss his conservation practices and system.

VI. New Business

6.1 Shirts for Supervisors/Staff

Mark J and Lana motioned to spend up to \$250 for embroidered SWCD polo shirts. Motion carried.

6.2 Pathways to Water Quality

There was no interest in organizing a group day to work at the exhibit during the state fair. As it is a good cause, board authorized Carolyn and Leslie to work one day.

6.3 Training Opportunities

Leadership in Change training in Jasper, IN is coming up. No interest at this time.

Leslie asked to attend two upcoming trainings: “Native warm season grass” and “crop land weed ID”, both in Lafayette. Mark K and Lana motioned to allow training costs and time away. Motion carried.

6.4 Coffee maker for meetings

Lana motions to spend up to \$100 for a coffee machine. Mark K seconded. Motion carried.

6.5 River Friendly Farmer

Applications are due June 16th and don’t look too complicated. Board decided not to actively pursue, but if a farmer comes to mind, then by all means. Send Mark J a copy of the application.

6.6 Next Meeting

Next meeting will be a bit early due to holiday weekend plans. **May 19th** is the new date.

VII. Agency Reports

7.1 NRCS

Kevin told the board that Rose’s CRP agreement would have to run under our contract. The board was OK with NRCS and Newton Co pursuing that agreement. We received signed applications for the RCPP, totally approximately 600A, most of which are in Benton Co. Hoping to get some more acreage from a guy that wanted to plant into last year’s cover crop before committing to more acreage.

7.2 ISDA

Jared provided CREP cards and institute survey Gained 1% of acres in the RCPP area last year. He had to redo his maps due to PII concerns. CWI grant meeting May 23rd in Rochester in go over the ins and outs of applying for those competitive grants. Specialty crop plot grants from ISDA are available. Go to isda.in.gov for more information.

7.3 Office

No report.

Chairman Kyler Laird adjourned the meeting at 9:45am CST

Minutes approved

Respectfully submitted _____ Leslie Davisson