

January 27, 2017

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

Supervisors Absent:

Staff Present: Dan Perkins and Leslie Davisson

Associates Present:

Partners Present: Kevin Shide

Citizens Present: Derek Luchik

I. Call to Order

Chairman Kyler Laird called the meeting to order at 8:00am

II. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from the December meeting were presented for approval. Mark K motioned to approve and Mark J seconded. Minutes will be recorded as written.

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

The treasurer's report and claims in the amount of \$29,608.93 were presented for approval. After some discussion, Mark J motioned to approve the report and claims. Jim seconded. Report and claims are approved and will be filed for audit.

IV. Correspondence

- Leslie presented a thank you card from Carolyn Ahler recognizing the board's baby gift to her. There were also various upcoming meetings and educational opportunities for staff and supervisors that were provided.
- Pheasants Forever Banquet is March 7th. More info to come later.

V. Standing Committee Reports

A. Land Use & Non-Farm Programs (Jim, Kyler)

- Jim is willing to remain our representative on the Arrow Head RC& D board once he is an associate supervisor. There were no objections.

B. Information and Outreach (Mark J, Kyler)

- Annual Conference was attended by Jim, Kyler, Dan, and Leslie. Dan spoke in a session about small farms, and Leslie contributed on a women's learning circle panel. Jim was the delegate for the business meeting. The only resolution passed was to ask for an MOU with Purdue to allow research with other educational institutions or to strike the language all together.
- Jim presented IASWCD's AFR to the group. There was some discussion. Leslie will copy and distribute to all.
- Jim reminded us that the Cornerstones of Leadership series will be canceled if they do not receive more participation. Please consider attending.
- Olivet Nazarene University is hosting a conference on the Kankakee on February 10th. Dan and Leslie are going. The agenda was presented to all.
- Dan attended the SHP conference in Iowa. More farmers are participating; some research was presented, but they need more. In Des Moines, IA, TNC is hoping to have 50% of their upstream agricultural acreage covered in conservation practices.

C. Administrative (Jim, Lana)

- Mark K motions and Mark J seconds to continue using LB&T as our depository.
- Mark J and Mark K will serve on the internal audit committee. Leslie will coordinate a time to conduct the audit.
- Carolyn is doing a couple hours of work per pay period, mostly on social media.
- Dan & Leslie are taking some vacation in February, which was approved by the board.
- Leslie presented the Dues & Subscriptions budget for 2017. Some changes were made to the regular payment amounts. Leslie & Dan will work on a budget for the 2017 Annual CWI funds.

D. Farm Programs (Mark J, Kyler, Mark K)

- There is a Bi-state meeting with IL sponsored by IL & Purdue extensions on February 9th. Dan & Mark J expressed interest in attending. There is a fee, so let Leslie know soon.
- Dave Brandt has a field day on April 5th at his farm in Carroll, OH focusing on various fertilizer issues. Let Leslie know if you want to attend. There is a fee.
- Wally Tyner from Purdue is still looking for producers for his CC economics study.
- Dan distributed some forms to gather information from the supervisors on Controlled Traffic farming.
- We might do an N study with Dr Shalimar Armstrong of Purdue for presentation at our fall field day. Dan is in discussions with him.

E. Grants (Lana)

- RC&D grant for water quality supplies and a drone was shown to the board for approval to submit. Lana motioned and Mark K seconded. Grant will be submitted.
- NWF CC Champions 2017 was funded. There will be an organizational lunch meeting on January 30th.
- Dan will proceed with purchasing the Roller Crimper from the PA company, as no local sources proved willing or able (within our timeline).
- HC Grant is now closed. The report has been submitted. Unfortunately due to lower high clearance planting this season, and some other technicalities, we will need to return \$2,557.81 to the CWI grant pool.

F. UIWI

- The raingarden sign for Iroquois Park is complete and will be purchased this month.
- Be thinking about a good urban workshop for 2017, perhaps focusing on pollinators.
- Allie has started working on the water quality data in preparation for the report.

VI. Other Committee Reports

A. Education Center Report

- Kyler will provide Leslie with the name of someone to work on the minor repairs that are needed.

B. Annual Meeting Committee

- Leslie presented the proposed budget and expenses for the February 28th meeting. Ceres Solutions, Pleasant Ridge, Kentland Bank, and Farm Credit have all agreed to sponsor.
- Leslie will meet with eMbers to go over the logistics of the setup and the event and communicate the info to the board.
- We are going to present awards to the KV, Rensselaer, and Tri-County FFA groups for their 2016 accomplishments. REMC will purchase the award plaques.

- As a meeting favor, and for future events, the board approved the purchase of 101 5x11 window clings with the JCSWCD logo and I ♥ Conservation. In the future, Mark K suggested a prize for sharing the cling on social media.

VII. Old Business

- The updated vehicle proposal was presented to the board for a review. There was quite a bit of discussion about perception when the vehicle is being used for personal use, even with a thorough policy. The consensus of the board was the primary purpose of the vehicle is for the district's general use, hauling our equipment, and professionalism on the job. The secondary use is an extra benefit for Dan. A couple of alternative ideas are Dan purchases the vehicle and the district pays him a monthly vehicle allowance. The district purchases the vehicle for office use only and remains at the office overnight, other than rare exceptions. More research and thought is needed. The issue is tabled until the March meeting.
- IRCD letter that Dan wrote in response to their letter was distributed, but the IRCD meeting was canceled. Dan will attend the next meeting. They will have a spot open on their board. Dave Rodibaugh is willing to serve, but needs to be appointed by the commissioner. One of the supervisors needs to approach them.

VIII. New Business

A. Next meeting – February 28th, 2017

B. More Effective Board Meetings

- Kyler attended a session at Conference on running more efficient board meetings. A “consent” agenda is a bundling of items that can be approved together via email, such as the minutes, treasurer reports, administrative issues, and committee reports. Any questions on those items could be addressed at the following meeting, and therefore not approved via email.
- At meetings, all actionable items are at the top of the agenda, and the rest of the meeting is meant for long range planning, possibly planning out the topics for the month ahead of time.
- Kyler asked that we look into purchasing tablets to distribute to board members as a way to disseminate info vs the paper and binders we currently use. All the information would be available on the cloud, as it is public. Links on our website to our cloud of docs would also be available.

IX. Agency Reports

B. NRCS

- CRP signups are still going on, but struggling due to some confusion and tightened acreage. People can still apply, but those acres will be for fiscal year 2018. There are some opportunities to “sell or lease” CRP ground to beginning farmers.
- EQIP deadline has passed, but signup still goes on, but those acres not eligible until 2018.
- CSP deadline is February 3rd. Big changes to the program are occurring. Kevin will keep us updated.
- RCPP signup period is likely to occur later this spring. Two-stage ditches are moving forward, but terribly expensive, so down to only one real possibility.

- C. ISDA-No report**
- D. Office-No report**

Mark K motioned to adjourn and Jim seconded.

Chairman Kyler Laird adjourned the meeting at 10:30am.

Minutes approved

Respectfully submitted _____ Leslie Davisson