

November 17, 2017
SWCD Office

Supervisors Present: Mark Kingma, Kyler Laird and Derek Luchik
Supervisors Absent: Mark Jordan and Lana Zimmer
Staff Present: Dan Perkins and Sheila Schroeder
Associates Present:
Partners Present: Jared O'Brien, Bryan Overstreet and Kevin Shide
Citizens Present:

I. Call to Order

Chairman Kyler Laird called the meeting to order at 8:08 am CST.

II. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from September were presented for review. Mark K motioned to approve the minutes and Derek seconded. Minutes approved.

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

The treasurer's report and claims in the amount of \$11,982.93 for September and \$6,745.89 for October were presented for approval. Mark K motioned to approve the report and claims and Derek seconded. Motion carried. Report will be filed for audit.

IV. Correspondence

Recently received correspondence was distributed including a thank you from Gus Nyberg thanking SWCD for their annual donation, a thank you letter that was sent along with a sponsorship check from InField Advantage, and a hand-written invitation from Kim Peterson inviting supervisors to the December 5, 2017 Region Meeting at the new Lake county SWCD office. Mark K. will attend the Region Meeting. Dan noted that the Region Meeting is the same day as a cover cropping event being held by Jamie Scott in the Ft. Wayne area. Dan distributed an informational flyer about InField Advantage meeting to be held at Fair Oaks Farms on December 14, 2017. Mark K. inquired whether nutrient management points will be offered for this meeting. Sheila will ask Meg Leader about this. Kyler mentioned that he had been told that Leslie made a positive impression by attending the RC&D meeting, and noted that her presence made a difference to the group.

V. Old Business

5.1 Crimper Policy: Dan is working on a policy that addresses people outside of Jasper, Newton and Benton counties requesting to use the crimper. He plans to model the policy utilizing a similar one Vermillion County has for their No-till Drill.

5.2 Fall Field Day: Attendance was right around 100 people, with the majority of the people coming from 20 or more miles away. Dan mentioned that we could have better utilized our national speaker, perhaps with a more targeted afternoon session for a select group of attendees. Budget was briefly discussed. Sheila reported that approximately \$10,500 in sponsorships was attained, and all but approximately \$1,200 had been spent on the event. She will provide the Board with a copy of the budget at the December meeting.

5.3 New Agenda/Strategic Planning Meeting: Discussion was tabled for the next meeting.

5.4 Landowner/floater rights on tributaries/rivers: Derek suggested that Dan put together a list of questions to ask our local conservation officer about this issue, and Derek will have a conversation with him and report back. Jared noted that the Indiana Dunes has issued a PSA about this topic as it pertains to state waterways.

VI. New Business

6.1 Carpenter Creek Destruction: Dan explained the situation about some clearing that is taking place on a property in the Carpenter Creek watershed. It was reported to the surveyor who reported it to the Drainage Board. The Drainage Board indicated to Vince that the situation had been handled, but the clearing continued. Leslie emailed Doug Wolf at IDEM about the situation and sent pictures and requested that he look at the situation the next time he's in the area. There was some question about whether NRCS could get involved, but Kevin said that outside of them clearing for purposes of farming or drainage, the answer is no.

6.2 Supervisor Election Nominees: Nominations for Supervisor Selection need to be entered into SharePoint by December 1. Sheila will reach out to the Nominating Committee (Lana Zimmer and Jim Martin) and ask that names be submitted. Derek made a motion that the Board approve the nominations via email to ensure they are entered before the deadline. Mark K. seconded the motion and it passed. Mark K. was entered into SharePoint as the suggested Appointed Supervisor for the next term.

6.3 Minutes on the Website: Discussion was held about placing a link to SWCD monthly board meetings on the website. It was decided that once the board approves the meetings they can be placed on the website. Kyler would also like agenda packets to be placed online.

6.4 Equipment Funds: Sheila noted that monies from the Furniture/Equipment Fund had recently been used to purchase a table saw and speaker systems for Field Days and other events. Kyler will research tablets to possibly spend the rest of those funds on tablets for the supervisors to replace paper materials at meetings.

6.5 IASWCD Annual Conference: The event will be held January 8 and 9, 2018 in Indianapolis. There was some discussion about whether it would be worthwhile to attend the legislative breakfast and invite our legislators to attend. At this time, there doesn't appear to be any pressing issue relating solely to Jasper County, so we won't participate in that portion. Hotel reservation deadline is December 15 for those wishing to stay overnight on January 8. Derek may be eligible for a scholarship to attend as a first-time eligible attendee. Kyler and Mark K. expressed interest in attending the conference.

6.6 Region Meeting: This agenda item was discussed in the Correspondence section.

Dan circulated a draft of the NWF Champions 2018 grant which he will finalize and submit today. Dan also noted that our Kankakee grant is being forwarded to the EPA, indicating it will likely be funded. The Iroquois grant was not funded. Dan mentioned The Conservation Fund grant which involves farmers placing land into Wetlands.

VII. District Development

7.1 Education Center-kitchen sink drain update: This agenda item was tabled until next meeting. Kyler did mention making sure the heat is turned on to an appropriate level in the building. Bryan mentioned that the Community Building at the Fairgrounds is being remodeled so groups may ask to borrow the use of our building during that time.

7.2 Office Staff & Duties: Kyler received approval from the Jasper County Commissioners to replace Leslie Davisson with a new employee following her relocation. Mark K. made a motion to hire Sheila Schroeder as the new District Administrator effective November 1, 2017. Derek seconded and the motion passed.

7.2.1 Derek made a motion, seconded by Mark K., to approve Sheila as the new Treasurer for the District. The motion passed. Discussion was also held about a staff member of SWCD signing CRP conservation plans on behalf of the district. Leslie had performed this task in the past. Mark K. made a motion that Sheila sign off on those plans and summarize them for the board. Derek seconded the motion and it passed.

7.2.2 Sheila reported that she had applied and been accepted into the Watershed Leadership Academy for 2018. The training involves a combination of onsite classes and online learning. The UIWI grant will reimburse us for the cost of the Academy upon completion.

7.3 Outreach: No report at this time.

7.4 Partnerships: No report at this time.

VIII. Agency/Partner Reports

8.1 ISDA:

Jared reported that the tillage transect will occur soon. He noted that he and Dan had recently done a mini-transect of the RCPP Watershed. This will need to be repeated for the Kirkpatrick. Jared explained the process of entering information about state grants, such as CWI, into SharePoint, which is an online reporting system used by ISDA. Jared mentioned that a new Director of the ISDA will be named by the end of the month. Kyler asked about efforts to automate tillage transect. Jared indicated he had no new information about that at this time.

8.2 Purdue Extension:

Bryan reported that the Journal of Extension Articles will be published soon. He noted that Field Day publicity seems to be getting better at reaching more people. Bryan said the nitrogen plot at Mark K.'s farm had been picked and yielded 225 pounds. He distributed a flyer about Annie's Project which is a learned series for women in farming. Bryan discussed doing an analysis of 6 years of nitrogen data at PARP. Fair Oaks Farms will be hosting the 2019 Manure Expo. The Purdue Extension winter meeting will be held 11/30 at Tri-County Schools. Bryan

reported that he was selected to accompany a group of students to Costa Rica for a week in March.

8.3 NRCS:

Kevin distributed a written report to the board. He noted that EQIP applications are being accepted until December 15. He hasn't been made aware of the amount that will be available yet. Kevin said that Jane Hardesty is retiring, effective January 3, 2018.

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

Minutes approved

Respectfully submitted _____ Sheila Schroeder