

April 26, 2018
SWCD Office

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

I. Call to Order

Vice-Chairman Lana Zimmer called the meeting to order at 3:18 p.m. CST.

II. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from February and March were presented for review. Mark J. motioned to approve the minutes and Derek seconded. Minutes approved.

III. Treasurer's Report, Claims

The treasurer's report and claims in the amount of \$2,932.50 for February and \$24,639.48 for March were presented for approval. Derek motioned to approve the reports and claims and Mark J. seconded. Motion carried. Report will be filed for audit.

IV. Next Meeting Schedule

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 24, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

V. Correspondence

Dan distributed two pieces of literature for review. One pertained to a proposed wind turbine project. The other was an introduction letter from Rooted in Forestry about a new invasive species control business they have started. We will add them to our contractor's list.

VI. Healthy Soils

Spring cover crop seeding didn't work out well this year due to the weather.

Seeder – Dan distributed an informational sheet about a cover crop seeder from Fennig Equipment that will be available on loan for use through the SWCD this year. Discussion was held about how it works and who might utilize it.

Seeder – The SWCD can apply for funding for the purchase of a 60' seeder from the IUWI grant. Factors discussed included cost, storage, maintenance, return on investment, benefits in terms of conservation and other options we could use to promote a wider use of cover crops by local producers. This topic will be discussed more in the future.

VII. Water Management

Scott Walker is the new Jasper County Farm Bureau President. He has asked Dan to be on a committee related to maintaining levees on the Kankakee. More details are needed about exactly what Scott is asking of Dan to determine if there is a valid role for us to play. Dan will have a conversation with Scott.

We are investigating e.coli source tracking through our current 319 grant. We could use the data to then educate about septic system maintenance and livestock fencing.

VIII. Land Use and Development

Remington Town Park has some land they are putting a walking path around. They are looking at possibly putting an acre or so of prairie planting in the area. It will be incorporated into their park system. We have funding through our 319 grant for native plantings.

Dan spoke about the Raptor project he has been working on. Fastenal is donating u-bolts to the project. He is putting them on it as a sponsor and putting an instruction sheet with it as well. We also have funding for 10 owl boxes. Dan has built 6 of them and will investigate where to place them.

IX. District Development

Mark J. has spoken with Carl Ward about the kitchen sink drain. Carl hopes to go to the building next week to look into it. There is a vent that should be moved also if possible to prevent odors that come out during fair week. When Carl comes to get the key we will ask him about the possibility of moving the vent.

Billboard availability in Tippecanoe and Lake counties was discussed. It was decided that the locations that are available currently wouldn't benefit the SWCD.

X. Agency/Partner Reports

Purdue Extension – Bryan has a drone and will be taking the test next week. He would like to fly some of the Infield Advantage sites. Bryan went to Soil Health Training through CCSI.

NRCS – Kevin reported about the April 6 field day at Wheatfield Library regarding Wetlands; 15-20 people attended. Kevin is working on closing a couple of easements in Newton and Jasper as well. CRP – still on a national pause with no new sign-ups. There is only one property remotely related to Jasper County that is eligible for re-enrollment. RCPP (Notre Dame project) – one new application has been taken that is over 800 acres. We currently have 1100 acres in the program so this would nearly double the acreage. We can offer saturated buffers and bioreactors as part of the project. As part of EQUIP, 2 applications were accepted in Newton and 2 in Jasper, and 2 more are still in the works. Native grass habitat installation program was briefly touched on. WRP – Kevin is working on a large contract regarding invasive species control.

ISDA

No report

XI. Other Business

Dan distributed the revised Annual Plan of Work for Supervisors to review before the next meeting.

Dan is putting together a webinar series focusing on beneficial insects and cover crops. There is a possible partnership with NWF or NRCS for this.

Strip-till meeting in July – Mark J. is going. Jeff Herrold will be speaking.

Following a motion by Lana, second by Mark J., Chairman Kyler Laird adjourned the meeting at 4:47 p.m. CST.

Minutes approved

Respectfully submitted _____ Sheila Schroeder