



**August 24, 2021**

Jasper County Fairgrounds – SWCD Building

Supervisors Present: Mark Jordan, Jim Martin and Mark Kingma

Supervisors Absent: Lana Zimmer and Stuart Orr

Staff Present: Shelby Keys and Derek Carty

Partners Present: Ben Eaton and Kevin Shide

**i. Call to Order**

Chairperson Mark J. called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm CST.

**ii. Partner/Agency Reports**

- i. Ben Eaton, ISDA – Discussed the Kankakee Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). It is a federal program that the State would be leading if the project is funded. 5 year program that would run from 2023 – 2028.
- ii. Kevin Shide, NRCS District Conservationist – Office is open by appointment only and masks are required. Contracts are done being signed. New Soil Conservationist position will be housed out of the USDA office, this position will help with Kevin’s workload.

**iii. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Minutes from the previous meeting were presented for review. Mark K. motions to approve the minutes, Jim M. seconds and the motion carries.

**iv. Treasurer’s Report**

Claims for the month of July in the amount of \$11,578.37 were presented for review. Mark K motions to approve claims for July, Jim M. seconds and the motion carries.

**v. Old Business**

**Current Grant Updates/Deliverables**

- i. 205j – Lower Kankakee Watershed Initiative – Quarterly Site Visit with watershed specialist, Amanda Studor-Bond, on August 19<sup>th</sup> for a grant update. Grant will be finished by March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Deliverables remaining are 1 more steering committee meeting, 1 more pre & post survey, and one more County update. Finished water testing. Our final draft of the Watershed Management Plan has been sent to Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for review. We should have their comments back by October 21<sup>st</sup>. Once approved by IDEM, it will be sent for approval to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- ii. CWI 2019 – Interseeding Project – Interseeder currently at Jason Federer’s. Checked plots. Have sent the request for invoice through email twice to Interseeder Technologies.
- iii. CWI 2020 - Improving Infiltration with Native Plants and Cover Crops - Hosting a field day at Randy Prohosky’s farm in Lake Village to cover soil compaction and improving infiltration. Barry Fisher, with Fisher Soil Health, will discuss soil health and give demonstrations. Stephanie Frischie, with the Xerces Society, will speak about native plantings. The landowner and his Certified Crop Advisor (CCA) will also be present to

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discuss his soil health issues on the farm. Derek flew the drone over participants fields on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

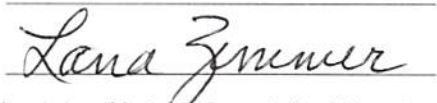
- iv. RC&D Invasive Buy-Back – Talked with Stace Pickering, who is on the Parks Department Board. Conducting a landowner survey with him and a Parks Department worker on September 29<sup>th</sup> at Brookside Park in Rensselaer. Reached out to Browns Garden & Floral Shop and Countryside Landscaping to verify what native replacements they can always easily get.

**vi. New Business**

- i. Equipment Storage – Discussion was had on where to move equipment for the winter. Will revisit next meeting when Lana is present.
- ii. Local Work Group Meeting - This meeting is hosted yearly and open to the public to discuss resource concerns in Jasper County. After discussing dates, the meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00 am at SWCD building at the Jasper County Fairgrounds. Shelby will send out an email invite and post it to the public.
- iii. Letter of Support – 319 Implementation Grant – Discussed the grant application, budget, and letter of support. The application includes \$170,000 in cost-share for landowners in high-priority areas of the Lower Kankakee Watershed. The education and outreach component will consist of 6 workshops/field days, 6 community booth events and 3 total float trips/clean up events/weed wrangles or other engaging events all over the course of 3 years. Through in-kind and cash match, the district can offer a total of \$84,545. Jim M. motions to approve the draft letter of support with match contributions detailed, Mark K. seconds and the motion carries.
- iv. Derek Resignation – Derek’s last day will be September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Shelby has compiled a list of items to be completed by that date. Derek made a request to keep the phone he had got when starting with the SWCD in 2019. Mark K. motions to let Derek keep the phone, Jim M. seconds and the motion carries.
- v. Reschedule Meetings – Lana is unable to make any meetings until November and asked if we could reschedule them. Decided on September 22<sup>nd</sup>, Shelby will see if that date works for her and send out a confirmation. The December 28<sup>th</sup> meeting was rescheduled to Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>.
- vi. Director Update – Fair was a success! Soil tunnel was inflated for 2 nights. Gave away 200 trees. Attended the in-person portion of the 2021 Annual Cisma Conference, a Winged Burning Bush field day at Pinney Purdue. Attended County budget hearing. Household Hazardous Waste Event is on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 am -12:00 pm CST at the Jasper County Highway Garage. Meeting with Austin Taylor from the Lakes & Rivers Enhancement division to discuss the LARE grant we were awarded. JCII Weed Wrangle on September 30<sup>th</sup> from 4:00-6:00 pm CST at Jasper Pulaski Fish and Wildlife Area. Met with Karen Stanley from the Rensselaer Urban Forestry Council to discuss our current projects. They meet the second Thursday of every month at 11:00 am CST.

**Chairperson Mark J. made a motion to adjourn at 4:07 pm CST.**

Minutes approved



Respectfully Submitted: Shelby Keys

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