

February 28, 2019

SWCD Office

Supervisors Present: Mark Jordan, Mark Kingma, Derek Luchik, Jim Martin and Lana Zimmer.

Supervisors Absent:

Staff Present: Dan Perkins and Sheila Schroeder

Associates Present: Stephanie Johnson

Partners Present: Ben Eaton, Erica Luchik, Bryan Overstreet and Kevin Shide

Citizens Present:

1. Call to Order

Chairperson Lana Zimmer called the meeting to order at 3:16 pm CST.

Dan gave a brief slido.com presentation. This would replace our old clicker system for presentations. Non-profit license is \$75/year. Plan is to use it at next month's annual meeting as well.

2. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from January were presented for review. Add a date to the Pheasants Forever event and the REMC event. Mark J. motioned to approve minutes as corrected. Mark K. seconded. Minutes approved with correction.

3. Treasurer's Report, Claims

The treasurer's report and claims in the amount of \$2,852.75 for January were presented for approval. Mark K. motioned to approve the reports and claims and Mark J. seconded. Motion carried. Reports will be filed for audit.

4. Correspondence

REMC has asked for \$200 sponsorship for the electronic recycling day in the past. Sponsors are included in all advertising for the event. This year they are waiving the \$200 fee in exchange for 2 people to help with the event on April 13th from 8 am – noon – one at City of Rensselaer and one at DeMotte Annex. Mark K. and Jim will help in DeMotte. Lana will help with the Rensselaer event.

5. Old Business

a. Dan on open grants – updates/deliverables

i Kankakee – deliverables are on the master tracker. Steering committee will meet March 13th at 9 am at the Wheatfield library. Mark K., Carolyn, Sheila and Dan are asking people to participate in the meeting and hopefully to also be on the committee.

ii CWI 2019 – Interseeding; we are getting the tool leased; the company will submit an official contract for the lease.

iii CWI 2017 – publication due by the end – tips/techniques, Dan is working on that; we will be renting the crimper out this spring. Farmer profile and final grant report will be needed also.

iv Grassland for Game birds/song birds – our job is simply to promote the program.

v Carpenter Creek/LARE - \$3500 left; needs to be a farmer meeting this year and a final report.

vi RC&D – Drone and water testing – we said we would develop a video as part of the Notre Dame project; we do have footage, but it needs to be put together. Also, final report will be needed.

vii RCPP – follow up with individual farmers with tile data – get data from Notre Dame then tell each grower what it means. Notre Dame is crunching all the numbers, and they aren't yet available.

viii SARE – biomass samples are needed this spring; we are a partner in this grant; it matches our roller crimper grant nicely; University of Illinois grant – Klemp, Federer, Gary Cooper, Dave Rodibaugh are the local farmers; point is to develop a model for when roller crimping would be most beneficial. Online tool will be developed as a result. Small stipend for farmers who are participating. Mark J. makes a motion to have Dan work with the grad student to find another person outside of our staff who can coordinate this project to keep these sites involved. Mark K. seconds. Motion passes.

b. Midwest Mint Growers Meeting – held at Fair Oaks, February 21, 22. Dan spoke on cover crops and how mint farmers could best implement them in their operations. Large crowd from more than 4 states was present.

c. Cover Crop boxes – Mark J has talked to a couple fair board guys. He needs to speak with Rich Moore. New office building has been built near where cookie building was. There seemed to be some interest in having the boxes.

d. Monthly meeting dates/times – Jim has a conflict with the Thursday date. Meetings will be on the 4th Tuesday at 3 p.m.

e. Annual Meeting: sponsorships are Ceres Solutions/\$500; REMC/\$300 and Saddle Butte/\$250; door prizes discussed; agenda discussed; FFA groups can briefly present and also be there for the social hour to share their awards and projects. Supervisors will meet at 4:00. Social hour at 5. Dinner at 6. Annual meeting program needs a date and an agenda added to it.

f. Other:

i Sentry Gage – funding for that dried up end of January. We discussed how to convince conservancy district to continue to fund it. Dan drafted a petition and will need 20 interested landowner signatures to present to Dan Blaney, attorney for the conservancy district to request them to continue funding. Need to find out the date of the next meeting.

ii Audit report -Mark J. and Lana audited the financials for 2018 and found everything to be in order.

iii KRBC – meeting was held 2 weeks ago; 2.3 million funding has been requested to implement the plan Burke engineering has presented; restructuring KRBC from 24 members to 9. The house has approved it and now it will move to the Senate. Mark K. will find out if the report can be distributed and placed on our website.

iv Board member per diem and mileage expenses was discussed. Lana will research what events are allowable and report back.

v Arrowhead Country RC& D – Derek represented Jasper SWCD at the 2/27/19 meeting. Lou Nagel was also there for Jasper County. 13 grants were reviewed. They all received some kind of funding. \$5,000 was the highest and the lowest request was \$1800. \$37,500 was available. \$36,600 was awarded. Jasper County's Inmate garden project was awarded \$5,000, Fulton Co. SWCD \$1800 for field signs that explain cover crops, etc. Marshall Co SWCD wants to install a small grassland that will be highly visible off hwy. 30 at a high traffic spot. Cover crop boxes would be a good grant idea for RC&D. We could apply for Jasper Foundation grant for stage 1 – due April 1. Mark K. moves pending fair board approval that we apply for grants to fund the cover crop boxes at the fair grounds. Mark J. seconded. Motion passes.

vi Master Tracker discussion – document will continue to evolve. Level of detail needed was discussed.

vii Mark J. moves to approve amendments to personnel policies that were discussed at executive session. Jim seconded. Motion passes.

6. New Business

- a. Purdue Extension Organic Grain Conference at Purdue next week; 90 people registered for day 1 and 170 for day 2. At least 8 farmers from Jasper Co. are registered. Dan helped organize and is moderating some of the panels.
- b. NRCS MOU – agreement that says we will work collectively with NRCS and other partners to advance conservation goals. Supervisors signed a document that gives Lana permission to sign the new MOU on their behalf.
- c. Progress on job search – Carolyn helped develop a web advertisement which was sent multiple places. No applicants thus far. Sheila will check with JCEDO to see if they will post. Derek will share with some forestry groups as well.
- d. Carolyn is moving forward with the website redesign. We aren't ready to develop anything pertaining to the Kankakee yet. Mark K. moves to raise Carolyn's rate of pay to \$18.88. Derek seconded. Motion passed.
- e. 4-H sponsorship –4-H Club Council booster letter asking for sponsorship. Jim moves that we approve the same amount that was paid last year. Derek seconds. Mark J. is president of 4-H council and abstains from vote. Motion passes.

- f. Infield Advantage – Bryan asked what will come of the Infield Advantage program with Dan’s departure. Bryan also noted that his availability to assist with the program will be drastically reduced this year. The program is evolving and more changes are coming for this year. Ben suggested they will begin limiting participants in the program. Not being involved this year is an option as well.

7. Agency/Partner Reports

- a. Erica Luchik, NW regional specialist for SICIM, reported on the rolling out of the III (Indiana Invasives Initiative) to try to combat invasive species statewide. Persons interested in native plants can be given her contact information as well.
- b. ISDA - Ben Eaton reported that the sexual harassment training video will take place at the April meeting.
- c. NRCS – Kevin explained that he will be meeting with USGS next week about the modeling of wetlands for the Kankakee. Kevin explained the purpose of the Grasslands for game birds and song birds program. USDA/NRCS funds are being used to help create suitable habitat in the area of SR 10 and south.

RCPP/Notre Dame – no new applications in this area.

CRP – no new information yet; in a holding pattern.

No changes with WRP that we know of yet.

Kevin proposed putting 2:00 on the schedule for board meetings so that executive sessions can be held if needed.

- d. Purdue Extension – Pertaining to the Inmate Garden that was funded by RC&D, Bryan will teach some gardening classes to them. Purdue Short Course is trying to be brought back and Bryan is on the committee to work on that for topics. July 31/August 1 North American Manure Expo at Fair Oaks. 1400 people attended last year’s event. Bryan is helping with planning and in charge of tours.

Jim made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Mark J. Chairperson Lana Zimmer adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Minutes approved

Respectfully submitted _____ Sheila Schroeder