

January 26, 2018
SWCD Office

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

I. Call to Order

Chairman Kyler Laird called the meeting to order at 8:05 am CST.

II. Minutes from Previous Meeting

The minutes from December were presented for review. Lana motioned to approve the minutes and Mark J. seconded. Minutes approved.

III. Treasurer's Report, Claims

The treasurer's report and claims in the amount of \$25,975.64 for December were presented for approval. Discussion was held about the grant monies and when the grant cycles end. There was conversation about how the funds for Roller Crimper/Technical could be used. Dan mentioned field days, education and repairs as possibilities. The Roller Crimper is being housed at Gary Cooper's home currently. Also discussed was which of our county funds reached 100% spent by the end of the year. Lana motioned to approve the report and claims and Mark K. seconded. Motion carried. Report will be filed for audit.

IV. Next Meeting Schedule

Dan noted that he is unable to attend the regularly scheduled February board meeting. It was decided to move the February meeting to an evening meeting, perhaps February 22. Sheila will check with all Supervisors regarding their availability. Additionally, the Annual Plan of Work meeting will be scheduled for an evening. Doodle Poll will be used to determine the best date for everyone.

V. Correspondence

None.

VI. Healthy Soils

5.1 Steve Groff Meeting:

The Steve Groff meeting held on January 22 at Clauss Bakery was discussed. A good crowd was present for the event. Overall it was useful and inspiring to those who attended, and there was a really good discussion atmosphere. Most attendees were experienced cover crop users, but they were also people who had not attended our meetings before. We will discuss making events such as these a more regular occurrence at the Annual Plan of Work meeting. A lengthy

conversation took place about absentee landowners and how to reach them with messages about soil health. Dan mentioned the Purdue Vole & Raptor Research report which indicated that the Northern Harrier is state-endangered and that voles are up to 80% of their diet. Thus, their dwindling numbers will continue to increase the vole population.

VII. Water Management

No report.

VIII. Land Use and Development

Dan announced there will be a Conservation Fund planning meeting February 7th in the DeMotte/Wheatfield area pertaining to the Wetland Restoration Enhancement grant. Jared is doing mapping about which lands would be ideal to place in Wetlands.

IX. District Development

9.1 Education Center: Kitchen Sink Drain

Discussion was held about drain repair and what had already been tried. Mark J. will call Carl Ward regarding further repairs needed. Wednesday January 31, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. is being planned for building cleanup/organization. Kyler mentioned putting a door closer on the door by the bathroom.

9.2 Annual Meeting – March 14:

The event will be at Embers Venue on March 14, 2018. There will be displays for people to browse during social hour. Social hour will be held from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. CST, with a cash bar. Dinner will be at 6:00 and speakers will follow. Ceres Solutions and others have been contacted for sponsorship and to determine what level of sponsorship they may be willing to provide. Kyler asked that we make sure Macallister is on that contact list. Bryan mentioned that Andrew Brown's daughter could be a future speaker.

9.3 Office Staff:

Bryan said the Purdue Extension building is available again if the February 8 deadline brings about another government shutdown.

9.4 Outreach:

Dan passed the postcard around that he plans to distribute at PARP meetings and other events offering on-farm evaluations for interested farmers.

9.5 Partnerships:

Bryan announced that the 2019 manure expo will be held at Fair Oaks Farms in August of that year. SWCD should have some kind of presence there. Bryan is working with Ron Wamsley and the University of Nebraska doing a pilot program on sustainable agriculture. This is an 8 week program that will be taught to 28-30 students in one of Ron's classes at Rensselaer Central High School. Bryan will go to Costa Rica in March with 22 Purdue students for an action-packed and educational spring break.

X. Agency/Partner Reports

10.1 NRCS

Kevin noted that he is continuing to work on EQUIP. CSP is accepting applications until March. Kevin is monitoring the Wetland Reserve Program and finalizing surveys for the February 7th meeting for the WRE program. Kevin said the tillage transect has been completed, but he has not yet reviewed the data. Kevin indicated that there are people

interested in CRP, but that program can't take any applicants at this time. Kevin noted that farmers as well as landowners have been requesting to put land into CRP. The national cap of 24,000,000 acres has nearly been reached.

Civil rights/compliance training is due soon. It will be sent to Supervisors prior to the next meeting for their review and then they will be asked to sign it at the February meeting.

Regarding the Steward program, Kevin explained that it is a 5 year program. Last year we had 6 applicants. The idea is to encourage and even higher level of conservation for people who are already implementing a lot of conservation practices. EQUIP is a better program for beginners because it will pay those people better.

10.2 ISDA

No report

XI. Other Business

Kyler announced that he is going to Edmonton, Canada next week. He will be discussing robots at a Farm Tech. event.

A sample business card mock-up was presented. This type of marketing doesn't seem to provide enough value for its cost. Use of billboards along I-65 will be discussed at the Annual Plan of Work meeting, and the possible use of an RC&D grant to fund them.

Dan showed a slide of a spreadsheet he has compiled utilizing the FSA list of roughly 550 farmers in Jasper County. It was suggested that he add a field indicating the date of the last contact with each farmer on the list. Dan has worked with 108 of them – about 20% of the total. By the end of 2018, Dan wants to be at 50% of the total number. Dan will investigate the use of Contact Servers to manage the list instead of excel spreadsheet. Jared will be helping with mapping using farm and tract number.

Following a motion by Lana, second by Mark J., Chairman Kyler Laird adjourned the meeting at 10:10 am CST.

Minutes approved

Respectfully submitted _____ Sheila Schroeder