



211 East Drexel Parkway  
Rensselaer, IN 47978  
219-866-8008 Ext. 3  
855-496-7863 Fax  
[www.jaspercountyswcd.org](http://www.jaspercountyswcd.org)

## **AUGUST 27, 2019 MINUTES**

Jasper SWCD Office

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

Supervisors Absent: Derek Luchik

Staff Present: Shelby Keys and Derek Carty

Partners Present: Brian Overstreet and Kevin Shide

### **1. Call to Order**

Chairperson Mark Jordan called the meeting to order at 3:30 pm CST.

### **2. Minutes from Previous Meeting**

The minutes from July were presented for review. The minutes were not accepted and will be adjusted to state that we have not received the hatch yet from the interseeder company.

### **3. Treasurer's Report, Claims**

The treasurer's report and claims were presented for review. Mark J discussed the difference in appearance of the reports due to catching up the past few months from employee transition. He explained that the current reports are not what the final will look like and that he and Shelby are brainstorming new ideas to give a better overall financial picture. Mark K motioned to approve, Lana second the motion.

### **4. Correspondence**

Discussion was had on donating to the Indiana Woodland Steward to cover newsletters they send out to residents in Jasper County. It was decided to skip this year and reexamine for next.

### **5. Old Business**

**5.1 LKWI** - Derek discussed how the grant is going and upcoming events happening. Elements 1-3 are completed, and Lana explained that the next due are 4-14 which are highly technical and complicated. It was decided to contract out to Arion Consultants and Sarah Peel to complete those elements for us.

**5.2 CWI 2019** - Derek spoke with Dan on locating the Interseeder. Discussion was had about signing a contract with the interseeder company, could not find a contract. Derek should take over the grant within the next couple of months. For next year, Derek will work with Mark J to redesign the deliverables. Lana is going to see where we can store our equipment before winter, Mark J is going to contact interseeder

company for the contract and payment information.

**5.3 CWI 2017** - The rental agreement has been updated, Derek will make a few changes and present the final draft at the next meeting. Klemp Farms will need to be contacted once we find a place to store the equipment, so the roller crimper can be moved. Discussion was had whether Kevin should look for individuals who could possibly meet requirements on utilizing grant monies, decided it was too short of a time span.

**5.4 RC&D** - Purdue Extension is hosting a drone class, Lana made a motion for Derek to attend and Mark K second to cover the course cost. Mileage and registration to come out of the RC&D grant. Lana mentioned having Brian Overstreet go with us and use the drone to fly over the watershed, looking for conservation problems in areas that would normally be impossible to see. Final grant report due November 2019.

**5.5 Cover Crop Boxes** - Discussion was had about whether to buy a kit or assemble from scratch. Jim volunteered to help. Using composite was mentioned, although it is more expensive. Shelby will investigate NWI Solid Waste District to see if small grant is available through them to help cover the cost of the composite, like they have in the past with the picnic tables. Derek will research what the boxes will be filled with and Lana mentioned that her son-in-law could possibly donate the top soil.

**5.6 Insurance** – The insurance is still an ongoing process as the interseeder is still not in our possession, so we do not have the VIN. Shelby and Derek will have quotes to present at the next meeting. It was decided insurance was not needed on the canoe. It was discovered at a staff training that our annual dues cover liability insurance, we just need to reach out in advance.

## **6. New Business**

**6.1 CWI 2020** - The district had a meeting with Scott Pelath, executive director for the Basin Development Commission, earlier this month. Mark K mentioned that Scott brought the meeting up at the State House. The application is due September 6th and will focus on deep rooted plants and cover crops across 4 counties in the Kankakee Watershed.

**6.2 Business Plan 2021-2026** - Discussion was had on what our focus should be in the coming years. Shelby mentioned education within the schools while possibly partnering with Erica Luchik, having an annual plant sale, and being involved in FFA/Ag weeks at the schools. Derek brought up CISMA and building partnerships within the county. A folder on the google drive will be created to continue to brainstorm new ideas.

**6.3 Transfer of Funds** - A current budget standing within the county was explained by Shelby. Discussion was had on transferring funds from one expense account to another. Mark K motioned the transfer of funds and Lana second the proposal. Motion passes and Shelby will mail a letter to the County Auditor.

**6.4 Friends for Conservation** - The Friends for Conservation received a bank letter stating that the

account has been inactive for almost a year, and a monthly fee will begin if a transaction does not occur. Lana discussed that during the lapse in employment, she did a lot of work for the district, and would donate an amount of her per diem earnings to the Friends for Conservation account. Everyone thanked her for all her time and work put in.

**6.5 Supervisor Per Diem** - Discussion was had on what the per diem covers and if there are any stipulations. It was mentioned to add a line on the supervisor per diem excel sheet so that a description of their work could be included. Mark K recommended creating our own policy that states exactly what work is covered. Lana to ask Chelsea Cottingham if her per diem can be covered by the LKWI grant when she was working on it.

**6.6 Soil Test Training** – Derek mentioned a soil testing class happening in LaPorte County. Jim motioned to approve sending Derek to the training for \$35, Mark K second the motion.

## **7. Agency Reports**

**Purdue Extension** - Prior to the start of the official meeting, Bryan Overstreet, with Purdue Extension, discussed upcoming events with staff. The manure expo was held with over 900 participants from over 25 states and abroad. Bryan discussed the farm stress programs that have been ongoing and informative for both farmers and individuals who speak with farmers. He also mentioned a possible 11-week series beef program this winter hosted in Jasper County. Lastly, the drone training program is being held September 26-27 at Pinney Purdue. It was mentioned that Derek should attend the drone program.

**SICIM Invasive Species Specialist, Erica Luchik** - no report

**NRCS** - Kevin discussed the local work group and stated that the rankings need done either at the next meeting or in October. Need to create a priority list to determine local rankings, Shelby will put it on the agenda for next month.

**ISDA** - no report

**Office Staff** - no report

**Chairman Mark J. adjourned the meeting at 6:01 pm CST.**

Minutes Approved

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Respectfully Submitted: Shelby Keys