



Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting
1486 Executive Blvd., Suite A, Jasper, IN 47546
812-482-1171, Ext 3, www.duboisswcd.org
www.duboisswcd.org

Thursday, November 6, @ 4:30 pm
Jasper Public Library Room 136

Present:

Brenda Sermersheim, Chair
Glenn Goepfner, Vice Chair
Arlene Fleck, Supervisor, Treasurer
Mark Welp, Supervisor

Patrick Eckerle, Supervisor
Corbyn Schnell, SWCD Resource Specialist
Kaylee Jacob, SWCD Administrative Assistant
Veronica Helming, SWCD Executive Director

SWCD Chair Brenda Sermersheim, opened the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Sermersheim asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There are no changes to the agenda

MINUTES

A motion was heard and seconded to approve the September 4th, Board Meeting Minutes with no changes (*Welp/Goepfner*). The motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Helming reviewed the September Financial Report. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Financial Report. (*Goepfner/Welp*) The motion was carried unanimously. Next, Helming went over the Internal Controls. All documents balanced with Quickbooks, bank statements, and paper documents. Next, Helming reviewed the Register of Claims to be paid. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Register of Claims. (*Fleck/Welp*) The motion was carried unanimously.

Next Helming told the board she opened up the CD at German American Bank. She listed the board along with Jacob and Helming on the CD account. She then passed around the account information for everyone to sign. Welp asked when the CD would reach maturity. Helming answered on March 31st.

SWCD Strategic Action Updates

A. Operations

- a. Drill/Seeder Update
 - i. Jacob did not have an update on the drill/seeder. Welp asked if the acre counters were working as they should. Jacob responded that everything seems to be working great.
- b. Jasper Chamber of Commerce 2026 Membership Renewal
 - i. Fleck agreed the membership is a good thing to renew. The board agreed. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the \$60 renewal. (*Eckerle/Fleck*) The motion was carried unanimously.

c. Annual Meeting

i. Awards

1. Conservation Farmer of the Year

- a. Discussion was made by the board about two candidates who were brought to our Board Chair. While discussing these two candidates the board agreed to keep it a surprise until Annual Meeting. A motion was heard and seconded approving one of the candidates for Conservation Farmer of the Year. (*Eckerles/Fleck*) The motion was carried unanimously.

2. OFS Forest Stewardship

- a. Helming emailed Doug and Judi Brown about possible candidates. We are awaiting their input.

3. Friend of Conservation

- a. Discussion was made about one possible candidate and all agreed they would be a good fit. Schnell to reach out for a point of contact. A motion was heard and seconded approving the candidate. (*Fleck/Welp*) The motion was carried unanimously.

d. Speaker for Annual Meeting

- i. Helming, Jacob, and Schnell secured Greg Brann for our Annual Meeting Speaker. Schnell and Jacob gave a little bio about Brann. He's well known for his famous "pasture walks" and owns Gregg Brann Consulting. His fee is \$650 including hotel. The SWCD showed everyone the finished flyer and everyone agreed it looked good. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the \$650 for the Annual Meeting Speaker Gregg Brann. (*Fleck/Eckerle*) The motion was carried unanimously.

e. Clean Water Indian Grant - Reclaiming Southwest Soils Application

- i. The SWCD watched the State Board Meeting October 21st and informed the board that we received funding for our grant. Six counties are included in this grant and will each receive \$50,000 over the life of the grant.

B. Stormwater

- a. Helming reached out to Chad about the next Stormwater meeting and Helming stated it is Monday at 8a.m. located at City Hall. Helming will not be able to attend and would reach out to Andrew about attending the meeting with Brenda Monday morning. Jacob and Schnell will also attend the meeting. Stormwater in the past has given \$1,000 to the Land Stewardship Initiative located at Vincennes University Jasper Campus.

C. Soil Health

a. VUJ Land Stewardship Initiative Update

- i. Helming did not have much of an update other than cover crops were put in two weeks ago. Fry finished them up before he left for paternity leave. Goepfner gave Helming the bill for harvesting and hauling the beans from LSI totaling \$2102.90. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the

payment of \$2102.90 to Glenn Goepner for harvesting and hauling beans. (*Fleck Eckerle*) The motion was carried unanimously.

- ii. Eckerle mentioned purchasing seed this fall yet as it is a better price and will only go up as we approach next year. The board agrees to go ahead with pricing seed for next year's corn crop. Eckerle said he would call Jason Small on cost for seed and send it to Fry. The deadline for purchasing seed at a discounted rate is December 1st.

b. Let's Dig

- i. Schnell and Jacob pulled two soil samples this past week from Celestine and Holland.

D. Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

a. ISAC Update

- i. Schnell updated the board that ISAC's Weed Wrangle is this weekend and a planning meeting is scheduled for November 12th.

E. Livestock Production

a. Clean Water Indiana Projects

- i. 2023-2025, Dubois, Orange, Washington
 - 1. Helming said one practice was paid out leaving \$873 left for this grant. Schnell is to pick up seed tags from another producer and once he is paid there will only be \$373 left.

F. Forest Management

NO UPDATE

Reports

A. Supervisor Reports

- a. Eckerle gave a weed board update. The Johnson Grass flyer will be going into the 2026 County Assessments. The Weed Board is exploring the possible option of getting drones to spray Johnson Grass in hard to reach ditches. The SWCD Board raised the concern of overspray but Eckerle said this is just a possible option the weed board talked about to help control the invasive Johnson Grass in Dubois County and nothing has been decided about using drones.

B. Staff Monthly Activity Reports: Provided via email prior to meeting.

C. Partner Reports

Other Business

Schnell and Jacob gave the LSI Sign located in front of the fields a much needed upgrade. All weeds have been pulled and/or weeded and new landscape has been laid.

Jacob informed the board she may be out the first week of December and may miss the next board meeting due to the primary babysitter for her son going on vacation.

Sermersheim asked Helming about per diem for the supervisors. Helming is to send out spreadsheets like last year. Sermersheim asked when she needed it back and Helming said she would include that date with the emailed spreadsheets.

The meeting adjourned at 5:29pm.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2025, at 4:30pm at the USDA Service Center Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaylee Jacob
Administrative Assistant

Approved On: