



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

Thursday, November 3rd, 2022 @ 4:35 pm
SWCD Office: Jasper USDA Service Center

Present: Brenda Sermersheim, Chair
Glenn Goepfner, Vice Chair
Pat Eckerle, Member
Andrew Helming, Member
Arlene Fleck, Member
Samantha Dame, NRCS Acting District Conservationist
Judi Brown, SWCD Executive Director
Justin Bary, SWCD Resource Specialist
Melissa Ruschau, Resource Specialist
Jessica Condra, SWCD Administrative Assistant
Emily Finch, CWI Invasive Species Grant Specialist

AGENDA

Sermersheim asked if there were any changes to the agenda. No changes were noted.

MINUTES

Sermersheim asked for a motion to approve the October SWCD Meeting minutes as presented. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the minutes. (*Fleck/Helming*) The motion carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Condra reviewed the October Financial Report. An error was noted, total designated funds should reflect \$5,937.82 with a total available funds of \$65,040.47 A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Financial Report with the correction. (*Goepfner/Fleck*) The motion carried unanimously. Next Condra reviewed the register of claims to be paid. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the claims. (*Helming/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously.

Condra reported the 3-page Internal Controls Report for October balanced.

Brown noted that per diems for supervisors were e-mailed out for review. Payments will be presented for approval at the December meeting.

PARTNER REPORTS

NRCS – Dame reviewed the DC Talking Points which were e-mailed ahead of the meeting.

Dame left at 4:55pm

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Brown reminded the board of the upcoming conference and encouraged them to attend. If any of the supervisors are interested, they will need to notify Brown by November 16th. Brown distributed resolutions which will be voted on at the annual conference. If any of the supervisors would like to attend as a delegate for our county, they need to notify Brown by December 30th.

Brown also reported that Joe Schmees, IASWCD Executive Directed, has decided to leave the position effective at the end of November.

STATE SOIL CON BOARD

Brown reported that the state soil conservation board has agreed to provide each district up to \$1,000 to reimburse supervisors and staff for trainings.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Brown distributed event fliers for the Southwest Ag Economic Summit at which Ruschau will be speaking. She also distributed fliers for Purdue Extension regarding Exploration of Diversity as well as their newsletter.

CRP

Bary reported that he is working on site visits and has 21 left to check.

LSI

Ruschau provided on an update of current cover crop growth and discussed the upcoming Southwest Ag Economic Summit and Fall Field Day event to occur on November 17th at LSI.

EQUIPMENT

Condra provided an update on equipment rental as well as repairs to the No-Till Drill.

COVER CROPS

Bary reported that 7 of the 19 applicants have submitted their bills and seed tags which are due November 23rd. He will begin to check their stands after the deadline.

SOIL HEATH FARMER GROUP

Brown reported that this is an item from the strategic action plan. Sermersheim recommending advertising in the newsletter and other media a call for mentors. Bary recommended having a panel event with experienced farmers, where afterwards those looking for advise and/or assistance could make a connection. Helming stated that Kenny Eck may be working on planning as series on cover crops for next year and that the SWCD might be able to provide a tie into the event.

INVASIVES

Finch reviewed the conference she attended.

Brown reported that she is working with Steve Berg to create a proposal for the county on creating an invasive specialist position.

HUAP

Bary completed one finished project review and is waiting on the receipt of their bills. He is planning a site visit for the spring regarding another project.

Brown reported that the CWI application for Orange and Washington counties has been funded but not for the total request. Dubois will receive \$22,500 in cost share funds as well as some funds for educational expenses. There will be no technician funding and Orange County is the lead.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Brown reported that they had a good field day. She will be attending the Forest Woodland Owners conference this weekend.

NATIVE PLANT & POLLINATOR

Brown discussed urban ag EQIP funding for small/community farmers. She will speak with Purdue Extension to figure out what we can do regarding outreach and how to invite people from the local farmers market to learn about soil health with the SWCD. Brown will reach out to those overseeing the Jasper and Huntingburg Farmers Markets to see if we can set up educational booths throughout the summer.

OPERATION

Brown reported that there are no updates on the annual meeting and that she has submitted the necessary information to the state.

Brown noted that she is putting together a proposal for the board regarding hiring a summer intern. She is working on the number of hours and pay for the board to approve.

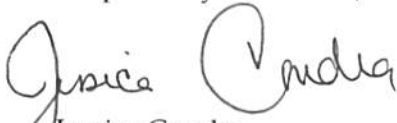
REPORTS

Supervisor Reports – Eckerle reported that the next Weed Board meeting will be either December 9th or 16th. He also asked for an update on the abandoned coal mine issue in Dubois County. Brown reported that there was no update, and she will find out who at the state level can provide an update.

Staff Reports - Staff Reports were sent out via e-mail.

The meeting adjourned at 5:40pm. The next meeting is scheduled for December 8th.

Respectfully submitted,


Jessica Condra
Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 12/8/22

