



Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting  
1486 Executive Blvd., Suite A, Jasper, IN 47546  
812-482-1171, Ext 3, [www.duboisswcd.org](http://www.duboisswcd.org)

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Thursday, December 8th, 2022 @ 4:34 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  
Melissa Ruschau, Resource Specialist  
Jessica Condra, SWCD Administrative Assistant

#### AGENDA

Sermersheim asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Brown noted that the meeting end time is incorrect and should be 5:45pm.

#### MINUTES

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

#### PARTNER REPORT – NRCS

Dame reviewed the DC Talking Points. She provided an update on deadlines and noted that Dubois County will have 35-40 EQIP applications for 2022. Dames last day as Acting District Conservationist will be January 2, 2023. She will maintain contact with the office, assisting with the applications she started. Dame does not know who the next Acting District Conservationist will be.

#### IASWCD ANNUAL CONFERENCE

A motion was heard and seconded to approve individual rooms for staff to attend the IASWCD Annual Conference, five rooms for two nights. (*Fleck/Goepfner*) The motion carried unanimously. No board members were able to commit to attending the conference.

#### STATE BOARD OF ACCOUNTS

The State Board of Accounts will be providing \$12,000 in funds to each SWCD in 2023 instead of the usual \$10,000. They will also be reimbursing districts up to \$1,000 for training. Brown will submit the necessary paperwork.

Dame left at 4:48pm.

#### FINANCIAL REPORTS

Condra reviewed the November Financial Report. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Financial Report as presented. (*Helming/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously. Next Condra reviewed the register of claims to be paid. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the claims. (*Fleck/Goepfner*) The motion carried unanimously.

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

A motion was heard and seconded to approve paying an \$8 invoice to the Dubois County Solid Waste for recycling of electronics. (*Eckerle/Helming*) The motion carried unanimously.

Brown proposed that the internal audit be conducted in early January so that it can be included in the annual report. Goepfner volunteered to administer the audit. Brown will contact Alan Smock to ask that he attend the audit too.

A motion was heard and seconded to approve paying supervisor per diems as presented. (*Fleck/Goepfner*) The motion carried unanimously. Brown will submit the data to the accountant and checks will be processed.

A motion was heard and seconded to pay Duane Hopf \$850 for annual maintenance and storage of the no-till drill and seeder as well as pay Alan Smock \$150 for maintenance for 2022. (*Goepfner/Helming*) The motion carried unanimously.

#### CRP

Condra reported that all site visits have been completed and Justin Bary is working on the paperwork. He has consulted with Dame and expects to have everything submitted by Christmas.

#### LSI

Ruschau reviewed the Ag Economic Summit event held at Vincennes University Jasper Campus, and the Field Day event held at LSI. WDRC reported on each event and pictures appeared in the Herald.

Ruschau is currently writing the state soils test for the Indiana Envirothon and planning a spring field day.

#### EQUIPMENT

Condra reviewed recent maintenance and costs for the Traverse, Silverado, and ATV.

Brown received approval from the NRCS to dispose of outdated equipment. Items have been returned to the NRCS Area Office, donated to the Dubois County Museum, and recycled.

#### COVER CROP COST SHARE

Brown reviewed a spreadsheet prepared by Justin Bary, reporting that \$14,285.21 is estimated to be spent, \$714.79 short of the \$15,000 available. A motion was heard and seconded to pay up to \$14,285.21 and return \$714.79 to the lead county. (*Helming/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously.

#### INVASIVES

The invasive report was sent out via e-mail.

#### 2021 HUAP

Brown reported no changes since the last meeting. For each project, Bary is either waiting on receipts or the project is scheduled to finish in the spring of 2023.

### **2023 HUAP**

Brown reported that \$22,500 have been designated to Dubois County for invasive and livestock. She will confirm with Orange County the split between the two.

### **FORESTRY**

Brown reported that the forestry committee are writing articles and letters to the editor regarding the Hoosier National Forest project and the benefits of forest management

### **NATIVE PLANTS AND POLLINATORS**

Brown is working with Emily Finch regarding ideas about natives.

Brown has been speaking with small growers and Purdue Extension about a field event which would focus on urban/small growers who sell at farmers markets.

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

Brown reported that rental for the Thyen-Clark Cultural Arts Center Atrium in Jasper is \$350 plus \$125 for projector and stage and a \$200 refundable deposit. A motion was heard and seconded to pay \$675 to the Jasper Community Arts. (*Goepner/Fleck*) The motion carried unanimously.

The board agreed to reach out to local banks; Freedom Bank, German American Bank, Old National Bank, and Springs Valley Bank about being event sponsors at \$500 each.

### **CWI CAMPAIGN**

Brown distributed copies of the new CWI Campaign and reviewed with supervisors.

### **ENVIROTHON**

A motion was heard and seconded to pay Julie Loehr \$100 per session for up to seven sessions/\$700 to provide training to local schools. (*Eckerle/Fleck*) The motion carried unanimously.

### **INTERN**

A motion was heard and seconded to hire a summer intern for 32 hours per week, \$13.51 per hour, 13 weeks for a total of \$5,620.16. (*Fleck/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously with Goepner abstaining from the vote.

Sermersheim noted that the intern needs to have a project to complete that it be presented at the end of the summer.

### **REPORTS**

Supervisor Reports – Eckerle noted that the Weed Board meeting will be held December 9th. Eckerle asked for any update on the abandoned coal mine. Brown had no update.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:14pm. The next meeting is scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jessica Condra*  
Jessica Condra  
Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 1/5/23  
*Steffen Soepner* *Franka L. Henschen*  
*Patrick Eberle*  
*Andreas Helm*  
*Silke Trept*