



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)

---

Tuesday, January 11th, 2021, 4:35 pm

*Participants met by both in person and virtually at the Jasper High School Community Room.*

<b>Present:</b> Brenda Sermersheim, Chair	Judi Brown, SWCD Director
Glenn Goepfner, Vice Chair	Melissa Ruschau, SWCD LSI Technician
Pat Eckerle, Member	Justin Bary, SWCD Resource Specialist <i>Via Zoom</i>
Andrew Helming, Member	Jessica Condra, SWCD Administrative Assistant
Glenn Menke, Member	Emily Finch, CWI Invasive Species Grant Specialist
Kenny Eck, Purdue Extension Educator	Laura Fribley, ISDA
Charmain Klem, County Council	Emily Kelly, NRCS District Conservationist
Duane Hopf	Arlene Fleck

Every person in attendance introduced themselves and explained their roles.

### MINUTES

Sermersheim asked for a motion to approve the December 20th SWCD meeting minutes as presented. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the December 20th minutes. (*Menke/Goepfner*) The motion carried unanimously.

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

Condra reviewed the December Financial Report. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Financial Report. (*Helming/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously. Next Condra reviewed the register of claims to be paid, stating that the yearly cost for Weebly is reflected on the credit card statement and will not be a re-occurring monthly charge which was approved at the December meeting. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the claims. (*Goepfner/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously.

Condra stated the 3-page Internal Controls Report for December balanced.

Brown stated that the SWCD financial books need to be internally audited by two supervisors before the end of March. Goepfner said that he would be available, and that Alan Smock usually assists. Brown will contact Smock.

### SWCD POLICY REVIEW

Before the meeting, Brown e-mailed nine policies to be reviewed by the supervisors. Sermersheim questioned the travel reimbursement policy. Brown confirmed that the county rate for mileage reimbursement was \$0.44, state is \$0.39 and federal is \$0.582. A motion was heard and seconded to keep the SWCD rate the same as the county at \$0.44. (*Eckerle/Helming*) The motion carried unanimously. A motion was heard and seconded to approve all policies as presented via e-mail. (*Helming/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously. A motion was heard and seconded to continue with German American Bank as the SWCD depository. (*Goepfner/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously.

### SUPERVISOR NOMINATIONS

Brown reported that Arlene Fleck and Tom Haase have expressed interest in running for the open seat on the board. If they want to move forward, then someone will need to complete the nomination form.

### ANNUAL MEETING

Sermersheim stated that the annual meeting will be hybrid on February 1<sup>st</sup>. Brown reported that it will be at the Ferdinand Community Center Mobil Room. She will arrive early to test they virtual functions with the meeting starting at 6:30pm. The election will be held, staff reports presented, and Alan Smock will present a report on the past 10 years at LSI. There will not be a meal this year. Brown asked if the board wanted to have awards this year or hold off until the meeting is in person. The board stated that they wanted to have awards.

The board, SWCD staff and Kelly will prepare their nomination thoughts and present to Brown to review by the end of the week.

### ANNUAL REPORT

Condra reviewed the ads and articles which will be in the annual report. Sermersheim congratulated Hopf on his award.

### NO TILL REPORT

Hopf reviewed the packet of information distributed regarding the current drill and proposals for new equipment. Rental rates were discussed and tabled to the next meeting. A motion was heard and seconded to repair the existing drill as presented by Hopf. (Eckerle/Goepfner) The motion carried unanimously. A motion was heard and seconded to purchase a seeder as presented by Hopf. (Eckerle/Goepfner) The motion carried unanimously. In 2022 Condra will start tracking what the drill is used for during each rental.

### STORMWATER

The 319 report was e-mailed from Julie Loehr. Brown asked if anybody had heard any updates on Flat Creek. No updates were reported.

### SOIL HEALTH

Ruschau reported that the cover crops at LSI are going great. The Ag Committee will meet next week and plans on planting corn for 2022. A tree fell in field two and she is checking with VU to see if they can take care of it. Ruschau will be sitting down with VU to discuss how to move forward with what falls under the SWCD responsibility and VU responsibility in the fields. The soil pits are still a bit soggy from the State contest. Hopf agreed to assess them. LSI administration was tabled to the next meeting.

### INVASIVE & NOXIOUS WEEDS

Finch's 2021 report was distributed for the board to review. Finch reported that the Weed Board met in December and are planning a heavy outreach on poison hemlock in the next few months, February-April.

**ENVIROTHON**

Brown reported that this will take place in March and usually the SWCD sponsors two teams from each high school at the cost of \$70 per school. A motion was heard and seconded to sponsor two teams from each school. (Eckerle/Goepner) The motion carried unanimously.

**GRANT REPORTS**

CWI HUAP: Bary reported that the 2019 HUAP project has completed, and everything has been entered into conservation link. The 2021 HUAP has paid two participants and there are a few other applications which have been sent out.

NRCS CRP: Bary reported that CRP was finished on time and sent to the FSA. Roughly 159 practices were checked.

**REPORTS**

- **Supervisor:** There were no supervisor reports
- **Staff:** Staff activity reports were sent via email.
- **Partners:**  
 NRCS: Kelly reviewed the DC talking points which were passed out. She reported that due to COVID numbers the office is at 25% staff occupancy and the NRCS will not be attending the annual conference.  
 ISDA: Fribley asked that the supervisors complete a statewide survey.

Brown stated that the annual conference will be January 24-25. If a supervisor would like to attend the contact Brown who will complete the registration. Four staff members are attending.

The meeting adjourned at 6:05pm. The next meeting is scheduled for February 1st at 6:30pm at the Ferdinand Community Center Mobil Room.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jessica Condra*

Jessica Condra  
Administrative Assistant

Approved on: *Grenola L. Lamm*  
*Patrick Eckerle*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Dawn Goepner*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Andrew Fribley*  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
*Shene Heek*  
 \_\_\_\_\_