



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, January 4, 2024 @ 4:30 pm  
SWCD Office: Jasper USDA Service Center

**Present:**

Glenn Goepfner, Vice Chair  
Arlene Fleck, Supervisor, Treasurer  
Pat Eckerle, Supervisor  
Mark Welp, Supervisor  
Clay Cox, NRCS District Conservationist

Aubree Pond, SWCD Executive Director  
Veronica Helming, SWCD Administrative Assistant  
Melissa Ruschau, SWCD Resource Specialist  
Justin Bary, SWCD Resource Specialist  
Laura Fribley, ISDA DSS Team Leader

SWCD Vice Chair, Glenn Goepfner opened the meeting at 4:30pm.

**MINUTES**

Goepfner asked for a motion to approve the December 6<sup>th</sup>, Board Meeting Minutes as presented. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the minutes. (*Welp/Eckerle*) The motion was carried unanimously.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Helming reviewed the December 2023 Financial Report and Internal Control Form. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Financial Report. (*Fleck/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously. Next, Helming reviewed the Register of Claims to be paid. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the claims. (*Eckerle/Fleck*) The motion carried unanimously.

Helming also stated we need to pay the Superior Ag bill, which she received earlier in the day. The bill is for the spreading of lime on VUJC LSI. The bill is due January 25, which would be for the next board meeting. The amount to be paid is \$574.44. A motion was heard and seconded to pay the Superior Ag bill. (*Fleck/Welp*)

**SWCD Strategic Action Updates**

A. Operations

a. Quickbooks

i. Helming stated she would like to change the Quickbooks subscription from monthly to annually. Currently we are paying \$60/month. An annual subscription is \$645. If we keep paying monthly, we would be paying \$720 for the year. The only concern was if we decide to change to a different software for bookkeeping. A motion was heard and seconded to approve changing the Quickbooks subscription from monthly to annually. (*Fleck/Eckerle*)

b. Otto J. Bauer Conservation Farmer of the Year

i. Every year the SWCD awards a member of the community the Otto J. Bauer Conservation Farmer of the Year, to someone who is practicing conservation on their farm. Pond had lists from previous years from Judi Brown's notes. After reviewing the list, it was decided to come up with a new list of possible candidates. A few names were mentioned: Dave Fischer

of Fischer Farms, Andrew Helming, J & S Schmitt LLC, and Infinity Cattle Company LLC. The conversation was put off until Brenda Sermersheim, Chair could put her input on the possible nominee.

B. Stormwater: No Update

C. Soil Health

a. VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative Update

- i. Ruschau gave her update for December. Ruschau, Eckerle, Duane Hopf met with Jason Lueken to discuss the soil test results. It was determined that fields 2 and 7 needed lime. The lime was applied in late December. Jeff Petry has done some of the mowing but has not started dirt work yet. There was a discussion on possible doing soybeans again next year. Eckerle's concern is that not much profit will be made on corn with the current price. Ruschau provided prior years yields to help project possible earnings. The next Ag Committee meeting has not been scheduled yet, but she will let everyone know when it is. She encourages the board to come to help decided plans for the upcoming planting season.

D. Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

a. Pond stated the grant report is due on January 31<sup>st</sup>.

E. Livestock Production

a. Clean Water Indiana Projects

i. 2021-2023, Dubois, Warrick, Spencer

1. Bary stated we wrapped up the grant with the final checks going out. Pond ordered some cover crop field guides with the leftover education funds, to hand out at future workshops.

ii. 2023-2025, Dubois, Orange, Washington

1. Bary is currently working on some designs for producers.

F. Forest Management: No Update

G. Native Plant, Pollinator Habitat, Small Farms: No Update

## **Reports**

A. Supervisor Reports: None

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

C. Partner Reports

a. NRCS

- i. Cox stated he received the cost list for EQIP. He is also working on the rankings which has a deadline of February 23<sup>rd</sup>. There are three rounds of funding this year. This year CSP has a minimum payment of \$4,000 for five years.

b. ISDA

- i. Fribley shared a new training website that is going to launch after the IASWCD Annual Conference. The website will offer shorter trainings instead of the traditional in person trainings. They have seen a decline in attendance over the past few years in person trainings. They hope this will increase supervisor participation. Fribley went over the website, what it will look like and where to find trainings. She also was open to suggestions on possible trainings that should be created.

## **Other Business**



