



Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District
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DUBOIS COUNTY SWCD ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES
February 14th, 2023 6:30 PM
Thyen-Clark Cultural Center, Jasper, Indiana
134 Present (79 paid, 55 complimentary)

The Soil and Water Conservation District Board Chair Brenda Sermersheim began the SWCD 77th Annual Meeting at 6:30 pm by welcoming everyone in attendance. Sermersheim introduced the SWCD Board Members and the Associate Members. She also thanked the Annual Meeting Sponsors: German American Bank, Beck's Hybrids, Old National Bank, Freedom Bank, and Spring Valley Bank and Trust. Sermersheim introduced Melissa Ruschau, Dubois SWCD Resource Specialist, who gave the invocation before the dinner. The dinner was prepared by Carla's Catering and drinks were served by members of the Forest Park High School, Southridge High School, Dubois High School and Jasper High School FFA teams.

After dinner, Sermersheim continued the introductions starting with the SWCD staff; County Council members: Mike Kluesner, Alex Hohl, and Daryl Schmidt; and newly retired Charmian Klem. Sermersheim also welcomed Andrea Gogel with ISDA; Emily Kelly with NRCS, Laura Fribley with ISDA; Bradley Hoffman with FSA; Julie Loehr with CCSI; Darlene Fischer with Perry County SWCD; Randy Rennie with Perry County SWCD.

Next, Sermersheim introduced the featured speaker, Kent Yeager, President of the Indiana Barn Foundation. Yeager included a power point presentation and provided copies of Indiana's Heritage Barns at each table.

After Yeager's presentation, Sermersheim, representing German American and Old National Bank, presented the Otto J. Bauer Memorial Outstanding Conservation Farmer of the Year award to Joe Keusch. This award is presented to a Dubois County farmer who uses good soil and water conservation practices on their farm and puts extra effort into conserving natural resources.

SWCD Board Member Pat Eckerle and Arlene Fleck announced the Friend of Conservation Award. This award is to recognize an individual or corporation who has made an outstanding contribution to soil and water conservation in Dubois County and was presented to Bart Pitstick.

SWCD Board Member Glenn Goepfner, and Laura Fribley with ISDA presented Daryl Auffart with the 2022 River Friendly Farmers award. This award was presented last summer at the Indiana State Fair for their wise farm management practices that protects our water sources and water quality in Indiana and beyond. Tonight, they were presented with River Friendly Farmer metal signs to post on their farms. Scott Balsmeyer also received this award, however he was unable to attend the ceremony.

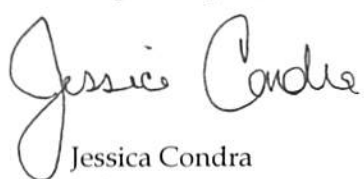
Andy Helming, Chair of the SWCD Election Committee which also includes Arlene Fleck and Judi Brown conducted the election of a SWCD Supervisor. Brenda Sermersheim's term as an elected supervisor had concluded. She agreed to have her name on the ballot for another three-year term. Helming asked for any nominations for the position from the floor. No nominations were heard. Helming then asked for a motion to close nominations. A motion was heard and seconded to close the nomination. *(Jack Welp/Alex Hohl)* Helming asked for an "Aye" for all in favor and then a "No" for any opposed. There were no opposition so Helming then ask Sermersheim to come forward for the oath of office. Mike Kluesner, president of the Dubois County Council also came forward to the podium to administer the oath of office.

Sermersheim presented a special award to Judi Brown, in recognition of her 25 years of service to the Dubois SWCD. All current and former SWCD Supervisors came to the front of the room to present the award.

Bradley Hoffman, Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director, discussed upcoming deadlines for FSA programs.

Lastly, Sermersheim reminded the audience to take a copy of the annual report available for them to review and thanked again the Annual Meeting sponsors and the Annual Report sponsors. She also thanked the FFA members and their advisors for assisting with tonight's meeting. She also announced there will be a SWCD reorganizational meeting following this meeting. The meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,


Jessica Condra
Administrative Assistant

Approved on: March 2, 2023
Patricia Erhardt
Glenn Goepfner
Andy Helming
Arlene A. Fleck
Brenda L. Sermersheim