



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

Tuesday, March 3rd, 2022 @ 4:40 pm
Jasper USDA Service Center Conference Room

Present: Brenda Sermersheim, Chair
Glenn Goepfner, Vice Chair
Pat Eckerle, Member
Andrew Helming, Member
Arlene Fleck, Member

Judi Brown, SWCD Director
Melissa Ruschau, SWCD LSI Technician
Justin Bary, SWCD 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. Brown stated that she needs to add *Depreciation* to the financial discussion.

MINUTES

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

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Condra reviewed the February Financial Report. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Financial Report. (*Helming/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. (*Goepfner/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously.

Condra stated the 3-page Internal Controls Report for February balanced and the supervisors approved and signed.

Brown stated that on the AFR if we depreciate everything over 10 years as previously decided, everything would be zeroed out this year. This would be a large one-year depreciation on the no-till drill and Silverado. As a result, she adjusted the AFR to reflect 15 years on these two items for this year's reports. Brown asked if the board wants to amend our policy to reflect the change. A proposal to amend the depreciation policy to reflect 10 Years for the no-till drill, 10 years for the seeder, 10 years for the ATV and 15 years for the Silverado was tabled to be reviewed at the next meeting.

OPERATIONS

Condra provided a report showing what other SWCDs and local businesses charge to rent no-till drills and seeders. A motion was heard and seconded to set the Dubois SWCD rental rates on the no-till drill and seeder at \$10 per acre with a \$100 minimum charge. (*Eckerle/Goepfner*) The motion carried unanimously.

STORMWATER

Brown reported that the Lower East Fork White grant has a time limit of 48 months. The first part took longer than expected and we now have a shorter time to spend the money. Currently we need to spend \$50,000 before July. A notice has been sent to everyone in the watershed. Once this is completed a notice of intent for a new project will be submitted.

AD BUDGET

Brown reported that the Herald has 6,000 print subscribers, 8,000 total including online. The City of Jasper has the same concerns that we do. Checking with the Dubois County Free Press, they have 65,000 visitors per month. Their rates are a bit higher than the Herald. They do not have an annual fee and charge by month.

Finch presented the Free Press add options with a projector.

Brown stated that \$1,834 was budgeted for the Herald in 2021. We could budget the same for 2022 and break it down per month and tailor to upcoming events.

Brown will meet with Chad at the City and report with proposals next month.

LSI

Ruschau provided an update on LSI. She and Andrea Gogel re-flagged the tilled strip. Research on summer covers were presented with planting planned for May. Ruschau passed out the budget which projects a \$2,000 loss in 2022. She proposed paying for pot-ash now in order to lock in the price. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the budget as presented. (*Helming/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously.

Brown stated that the LSI project is now in new territory with Alan Smock stepping back. Currently the Ag Committee makes ag decisions on the field and the Steering Committee consists of interested person who do not make decisions. Brown asked if the board wants to continue having a Steering Committee or move to a board member serving as the point person to make immediate decisions. The board agreed to disband the Steering Committee and have an e-mail sent to all board members when an immediate issue arises.

PAT ECKERLE LEFT AT 6:30PM

INVASIVE

Finch presented a review of the invasive mapping project which occurred in 2021. Brown proposed contacting the county highway garage to see how we can proceed together. A list of landowners whose property was noted during the mapping will be compiled and for outreach. Finch will report back to the board with proposals on moving forward with the next phase of her grant as it pertains to Dubois County.

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Envirothon - Brown reported that she is now the State Treasurer for the Envirothon. The regional contests are getting ready to start. All southwest team registrations were paid for by Toyota.

Home Expo - Brown stated that the Jasper Home Expo is this weekend

AR Sandbox – The Rotary Club of Jasper has a grant which Condra thinks could be a good fit to apply for funding of an AR Sandbox. She asked that if we are awarded \$6,000 would be board approve funding the balance of the project, roughly \$1,800. The board agreed that if awarded that the SWCD will fund the balance.

Drone – Conversation on a drone has been tabled to the next meeting.

GRANT PROJECTS

CRP – Brown submitted the invoice for \$19,398.75. Bary stated that he is waiting on the list for 2022 which will include two-year worth of practices to check. In 2021 he checked 160 practices and could see this as being doubled for 2022. Brown reported that Andrea Gogel stated that Chris Lee was very complimentary of Justin's work.

CWI 2019 – Brown reported that the final invoice has been submitted for roughly \$16,000. This was approved today.

CWI 2021 – Bary reported that \$4,882.18 has been paid out so far. If all the current applications are paid we will be close to full payout.

REPORTS

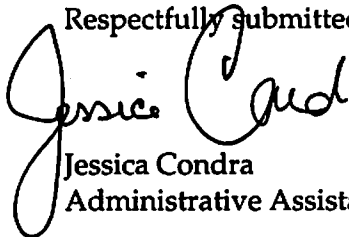
Partner Reports – The DC talking points were passed out.

Supervisor Reports - There were no supervisor reports.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:48pm. The next meeting is scheduled for April 7th at 4:30pm with a location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,


Jessica Condra
Administrative Assistant

