



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

Thursday, April 7th, 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
Tom Haase

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
Julie Loehr, Watershed Coordinator
Emily Kelly, NRCS District Conservationist

AGENDA

Sermersheim asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Brown stated that Emily Kelly needs to be moved to the start of the agenda and she added depreciation to the financial section.

MINUTES

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

NRCS DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST UPDATES

Emily Kelly received the DC talking points. COVID numbers are still being reviewed regularly and she will update the office if there are any protocol changes. Currently there are three EQIP applications in pre-approval, the final number is not expected until the end of April. Kelly is currently working two days at the Jasper office each week with the remainder of the week in Pike. They are still waiting for the position to post.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

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

Brown reported that in 2021 the Dubois County Community Foundation added \$457.56 to our account, and we used \$115 for the Women 4 the Land event. The current value is \$4,287.58 with available funds to receive in 2022 as \$127.90. Eckerle proposed that the funds available be withdrawn and earmarked for a future meal at an event. All agreed.

Brown passed out copies of the depreciation policy to review. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the policy. (*Eckerle/Helming*)

TRAINING

The training video for preventing workplace and sexual harassment was shown and all supervisors reported as having attended.

Emily Kelly left at 4:55pm

STORMWATER

Loehr reported that she is working on spending funds for the Lower East Fork White grant. The Pike SWCD Board is sending out a notice of intent in June to write a grant this fall to obtain more funds in fall 2023. We are \$40,000 short on matching funds and need invoices from landowners to account for the match. They will not get payments for this match; we just need to be able to report it.

Loehr passed out information on a PUSH-IT event about learning how to amend soil which will be held at Petersburg.

AD BUDGET

Brown presented an ad budget proposal for April 2022-April 2023. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the ad budget. (*Helming/Fleck*) The motion passed unanimously.

TILLAGE TRANSECT

Bary passed out results from the 2022 spring tillage transect. There were not big changes over 2021 vs 2022.

CRP AGREEMENT

Bary stated that he has 88 practices to inspect in 2022. Ruschau discussed the new CRP trainings. Brown that that this will be the 3rd and final year of the agreement and that we are waiting to see if they approve more funds after this year.

PERMITS

Brown reported that she, Bary and Ruschau attended a training on updates to Rule 5. IDEM has asked at what level do we want to continue supporting them from our office. In the past Justin has reviewed all plans and completed site checks outside of Jasper. Bary stated that this consists of 15-20 per year. Brown proposed to move forward at the same level as before. The entire board agreed.

LSI

Ruschau stated that they are waiting to see what the weather does before they can plant, however everything has been flagged. Brown reported that Christian at VUJC is ok with personal updates every other month on what has been happening at LSI. Ruschau will compose monthly reports.

RIVER FRIENDLY

Brown stated that nominations are due in early June. Bary reviewed a few producers to consider. Decisions on who to nominate will need to be made at the May meeting.

FARMERS GROUP

Brown noted that forming a local farmers group was included in our strategic plan. This could possibly replace the Infield advantage. The board decided to re-visit this conversation in the winter.

INVASIVES

Finch stated that the Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference (UMISC) is scheduled for October 25-27 in Green Bay, WI. She has been helping to coordinate the event and is planning on submitting an abstract to be a presenter. Finch asked if the board would agree to pay for her registration fee and hotel for the event. The board agreed to pay for the event registration and room. Brown asked if Martin & Daviess counties could share the cost. Finch will check with Martin & Daviess and report back to the board with their decision as well as accurate costs when registration opens. Mileage re-imbusement will be discussed after event costs are known.

LIVESTOCK

Brown reported that they are looking at having the Greener Pasture event at Steckler Grassfed. Currently this will be between Dubois, Spencer and Perry, however Warrick is interested in participating too.

FOREST MANAGEMENT

Brown passed out a flier regarding a tour of the burned area at the Ferdinand State Forest.

HOPE GARDEN

Brown noted that the Hope Garden is on our strategic plan. There is a new person in charge of the garden, she will need to meet with them to see if they want to partner on a series of workshops.

ENVIROTHON

Brown reported that both Jasper and Southridge schools have advanced to the state Envirothon contest. A Toyota grant is covering one hotel room for each team plus registration fees. The contest will be held a Connors Prairie. Brown, Ruschau and Condra are helping with the event and have asked for the board to approve travel expenses. The board agreed to pay \$100 for Ruschau & Condra's lodging and \$85 for Brown. Susan King from Warrick SWCD will be sharing a room with Brown and cover half of her cost.

COUNTY FUNDING

Brown stated that we need to start preparing our budget request for the county. The meeting with the commissioners will be in June and the council in August. Paperwork is due July 1st. It was decided to host an open house in May for commissioners and council members as well as those running in the current election.

1ST AMMENDMENT ACTIVISTS

Brown reported that activists have been at the Green County service center. These are individuals who go to government office to film. Our office has received federal guidance as to how we are to respond if they come to our office.

REPORTS

Supervisor Reports - There were no supervisor reports.

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

Brown noted that we received an invitation to the Jasper FFA banquet on April 24th and the Dubois Strong annual meeting on April 26th.

The meeting adjourned at 6:38pm. The next meeting is scheduled for May 5th. This will depend on planting. Brown will confirm on April 25th.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Condra
Jessica Condra
Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 5/5/22
Aileen Fleck
Patrick Eckel
Denn Doepfer
Andrew Halpin
Shane L. Humphrey