



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, June 8, 2023 @ 4:30 pm
SWCD Office: Jasper USDA Service Center

Present:

Brenda Sermersheim, Chair	Justin Bary, Resource Specialist
Glenn Goepfner, Vice Chair	Aubree Pond, Executive Director
Pat Eckerle, Member	Ella Goepfner, SWCD Intern
Arlene Fleck, Member	Clay Cox, NRCS District Conservationist
Veronica Helming, Administrative Assistant	Casey Kennet, Urban Soil Health
Melissa Ruschau, Resource Specialist	

SWCD Chair, Brenda Sermersheim opened the meeting at 4:30pm.

AGENDA

Sermersheim asked if there were any changes to the agenda. Two items were added: discussion on updating signers on the Signature Card and moving Casey Kennet's Urban Soil Health topic to the beginning of the meeting.

MINUTES

Sermersheim stated there was a wording issue. Under the SWCD Strategic Action Updates-Operations-Indiana Envirothon, "win" needs to be "in". They were approved with the wording change with a motion made and seconded. (Fleck/Eckerle) Carried unanimously.

Urban Soil Health

Casey Kennet was at the Board meeting to present the Urban Soil Health program. The purpose of this program is for Working Groups to advise on issues and promote opportunities that relate to urban and small farm soil health. These Working Groups consist of three organizations/individuals. The expectations of the program are for the Working Groups to meet 4 times per year, perform site visits, technical assistance, educational events, and materials. The first step is to form the Working Group and then meet with the Urban Soil Health Specialist (USH). The USH will then provide initial training: how to do a site visit, how to perform and interpret a soil test, how to provide technical assistance, and focus on small/urban farm practices. The Working Group will receive \$100 for each Site Visit and \$150 for each Technical Assistance visit. The costs of educational events and the materials will be reimbursed after completion. A motion was made and seconded to approve the Urban Soil Health as presented. (Goepfner/Fleck) Motion carried unanimously.

Kennet left at 5:05pm

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Fleck reviewed the May 2023 Financial Report. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Financial Report as presented. (Eckerle/Goepfner) The motion carried unanimously. Next, Fleck reviewed the Register of Claims to be paid. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the claims. (Goepfner/Eckerle) The motion carried unanimously.

Fleck also stated the promotion discount for Quickbooks had ended and the new monthly amount is \$55.

Sermersheim stated we need to update the Signature Card at German American. Currently, A. Helming and Condra are still signers. Pond and V. Helming need to be added. A motion was made and seconded to add Pond and V. Helming to the Signature Card. (*Fleck/Eckerle*) Motion was carried unanimously.

SWCD Strategic Action Updates

A. Operations

a. Computer Monitors

- i. Pond explained the need for new monitors in the office. Some of the monitors currently in use belong to ISDA and NRCS. ISDA is taking back the monitors they own. The other monitors are not clear and difficult to view. Pond asked the Board their opinion on getting new monitors and if we should contact NRCS about getting new ones. The main issue with contacting NRCS was the timing and how long it might take to receive new monitors. The Board decided we should contact NRCS about replacing the monitors.

b. Summer Intern Update

- i. E. Goepner gave an update on her projects for the summer. She is working with Finch on the Pollinator workshop coming up. She is also working on a Women 4 the Land workshop. She is going to contact the Jasper Parklands on pricing and dates. E. Goepner is also working on the 4H Fair display. This year's topic is Plants are Picky, talking about soil health. She has also been working on updating the SWCD website, adding photos and bios of Pond, Helming, and Cox.

c. Hats/Apparel

- i. Pond reminded the Board about purchase of apparel. Supervisors receive \$35 and staff receive \$100. Also discussed was the need to replace the hat inventory for giveaways for speakers at events. An amount of \$200 was given a motion and seconded for the hats. (*Fleck/Goepner*) Motion was carried unanimously. Another topic brought up was the need for promotional items for the 4H Fair. We are not sure what is in the inventory. Promotional items needed are pens, chip clips and some others. The amount of \$500 was given a motion and seconded for the purchase of promotional items. (*Fleck/Goepner*) Motion was carried unanimously.

d. Approval of New Board Member

- i. The Board approved the resignation of Andrew Helming. His suggested replacement is Mark Welp of St. Anthony. A motion was made and seconded to approve Mark Welp to fill out the remainder of Helming's term. (*Eckerle/Fleck*) Vote was carried unanimously.

B. Soil Health

a. VUJC LSI Update

- i. Ruschau gave the update on LSI. Nutrien is coming to spray. The fields were planted on May 5th. A week later, the waterways and filter strips were mowed. Fescue was re-seeded using the SWCD seeder. The population was low in the till strip. She is looking forward to the fall workshop.
 - b. River Friendly Farmer
 - i. Bary stated Jeff Stenftenagel has turned in his application and has accepted. We had another candidate but he has declined due to not currently wanting his name out there but he appreciates us thinking of him.
- C. Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds
 - a. Pond gave an update, there will be two upcoming events. On July 26th is the Parkland Prairie Walk at 7pm. On August 2nd is the Prescribed Grazing Workshop at SIPAC.
- D. Livestock Production
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Projects
 - i. 2021-2023, Dubois, Warrick, Spencer
 - 1. Bary discussed all the money had been allocated but not yet spent. The applicants are still working on the projects. There is concern most of the funds have not been spent. There is also a little to spend on education.
 - ii. 2023-2025, Dubois, Orange, Washington
 - 1. Bary handed out a spreadsheet to everyone with the applicants for this grant. The total amount is \$22,500 and \$21,400 has been allocated. Each applicant was capped at \$3,000. They capped the applicants because they did not know how much interest there would be. Many applicants expressed interest with receiving more. A motion was made and seconded to approve the applicants with Supervisor Fleck sitting out of the decision. (Eckerle/Goepfner) Vote was carried unanimously.
- E. Forest Management
 - a. Four Rivers Forestry Committee Report
 - i. Pond gave the update about working on more public outreach. The plan is to send out letters and press releases. There are also plans to do FAQ on Facebook and to use specific topics to target a specific group. They have one event coming up at the Ferdinand Folk Fest.

Reports

- A. Supervisor Reports: Eckerle stated the Weed Board meeting is coming up soon.
- B. Staff Monthly Activity Reports: Provided via email prior to meeting.
 - a. Sermerheim stated SWCD is being audited on two grants. The first grant is the 21-23, Dubois, Warrick, Spencer. This grant is being audited because all the funds have been allocated but not yet spent. The second grant being audited 23-25, Dubois, Orange, Washington. This grant is being audited in its first year. This audit is an internal controls audit, to make sure everyone knows what they are doing.
- C. Partnership Reports
 - a. New NRCS DC, Clay Cox introduced himself. He updated us on how he was settling in here in the office. He let everyone know he can be of help wherever he can. He asked the Board what they would like to see from him. They responded

it is just nice to have a constant face in this role and they are glad he is here with us.

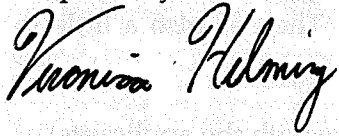
Other Business

A. Patoka Lake Clean Up

- a. Pond updated on the Patoka Lake Clean Up event happening on September 23. They asked for a donation of \$200. We have normally donated this in the past. A motion was made and seconded to approve the donation of \$200. (Eckerle/Fleck) Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:25pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 6th at 4:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Veronica Helming
Administrative Assistant

Approved On:

