



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, July 7th, 2022 @ 4:32 pm
Cherry Room A, Jasper Library

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

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
Laura Fribley, ISDA

AGENDA

Sermersheim asked if there were any changes to the agenda.

MINUTES

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

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

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

Brown distributed supervisor per-diem reports through June for each supervisor to review.

Laura Fribley arrived at 4:37pm

Brown asked for the board to approve a \$200 sponsorship for the Patoka Clean Up event scheduled for September 24th. A motion was heard and seconded to approve sponsoring \$200. (*Helming/Goepfner*) The motion carried unanimously.

CRP

Bary provided an update on status reviews. He stated that some work was completed by NRCS as there was some confusion with the acting District Conservationist as to what our role was. As a result, we will be paid for the site visits completed but not the conservation desktop work which they completed. Bary has 85 status reviews to complete and has now taken a break due to high crops, he will complete once harvest has started.

LSI

Ruschau provided an update on June planting and crop growth. She reported that the city is storing some dirt from a project next to LSI on the property and once completed we will be moving some of the remainder to fill in areas in the field.

RENTAL EQUIPMENT

Condra provided a handout recapping year to date rental fees collected as well as explained the problems with the seeder and a quote to fix it. Brown noted that Duane Hopf is working with Hopf Equipment to get this paid under warranty. The board agreed that this needs to be fixed soon as we need it back in operation. Goepfner suggested blocking out the most aggressive setting to help avoid damage in the future, all agreed.

INVASIVE

Finch reported on the Weed Wrangle held at Niehaus Park and noted that Johnson Grass was highlighted in the newsletter and there is a new page on the SWCD website about it. She also noted upcoming events include a Prairie Walk at the Jasper Parklands later this month as well as an Invasive training to be held in September. Finch stated that Mike Homoya will be speaking at the Dubois ISAC event in April 2023.

Eckerle reported that the Weed Board met on July 6th. A lot of positive feedback was received regarding the poison hemlock fliers inserted in property tax mailers. He stated that there is an issue in Celestine regarding a person planting non-GMO corn and they now have Johnson Grass growing with it. Steve Berg is going to follow up with them and Kenny Eck will be providing some Extension information flyers to the landowner.

Condra stated that the 4-H fair is coming up the week on July 18th. She has completed the fair display and the ad has run in the TOC mailer. Staff have been scheduled to cover one person per evening and she asked that if time allows it would be great to have a board member each evening too. The Supervisors will reach out with their availability.

Finch provided a cost estimate for her invasive conference in October. Judi reviewed, stating that the total estimate is \$1,480 and if you divide it by 3 it would be \$493.33 each for Dubois, Daviess and Martin counties to split equally. The board agreed that splitting into thirds would be great. They decided to hold off on approving the amount that Dubois will cover until a confirmation is received stating how much the other two counties will pay. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the cost of the hotel room so that it could be booked on July 8th. (Goepfner/Fleck) The motion carried unanimously. A report will be made at the August board meeting as to what the other two counties will pay, at which time the board will decide how much Dubois will cover.

CWI GRANTS

Brown reported that the deadline for CWI grants starting in 2023 is September 9th. She has been in communication with the SWCD staff at Orange County regarding applying for a CWI grant which would cover cost share for invasive control. The board agreed to proceed with this application.

Bary reported that all funds have been allocated for the current CWI HUAP grants except for \$367. This week he started a list for overflow applicants in case somebody backs out.

FORESTRY

Brown reported that committee is planning some activities for this fall with more information to come.

OPERATIONS

Brown reported that the preliminary budget has been reviewed by the supervisors and the total request to be submitted to the county is \$171,252, this includes pay increases. The county council meeting is August 8th, Brown will verify the time. Sermersheim encouraged the supervisors to attend with her.

RECORDS REQUEST

Brown stated that the commissioners approved a form developed by the county to be used for public records requests. The board agreed to use this form. Brown will confirm with the NRCS if we can charge for making copies. Fribley stated that per the Indiana Open Door Law that we cannot charge for labor to compile the records, only copying expenses.

Brown reported that the county has changed their mileage reimbursement from \$0.44 to \$0.49 effective July 1st. A motion was heard and seconded to amend the SWCD travel policy to \$0.49 per mile. (*Helming/Goepfner*) The motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS

Partner Reports

Purdue: Eck reported on upcoming Purdue Extension workshops as well as the county fair the week of July 18th.

ISDA: Fribley reported on the July 12 grant workshop where Finch will be presenting. She also noted that the region meeting will be in person this year in Daviess County. Registration is now open and will cost \$25 to cover the dinner and speaker fee. Brown stated that if any supervisor would like to register to let her know is she will take care of it.

NRCS: Brown asked if the board would like to continue getting the DC talking points as a physical handout at the meeting or if they would like it e-mailed with other reports. The board agreed to receive them via e-mail. The DC typically reviews the most pertinent items with the Supervisors.

Supervisor Reports - There were no supervisor reports.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:16pm. The next meeting is scheduled for August 4th.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Condra
Jessica Condra
Administrative Assistant

Approved on: *Beryl Sermersheim*
Sheene Fleck
Patrick Eckert
Blaine Goepfner
Andrew Helming

