



Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting  
1486 Executive Blvd., Suite A, Jasper, IN 47546  
812-482-1171, Ext 3, [www.duboisswcd.org](http://www.duboisswcd.org)

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Thursday, September 1st, 2022 @ 4:30 pm  
Jasper High School Community Room

**Present:** Brenda Sermersheim, Chair  
Glenn Goepfner, Vice Chair  
Pat Eckerle, Member  
Andrew Helming, Member  
Arlene Fleck, Member  
Larencia Williams, NRCS Acting District Conservationist  
Andrea Gogel, ISDA  
Judi Brown, SWCD Executive Director  
Justin Bary, SWCD Resource Specialist  
Melissa Ruschau, 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 added soil judging under the soil health section. Williams has been delayed and as a result the Local Working Group Natural Resources Discussion & Ranking will take place when she arrives.

### MINUTES

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

### FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

Condra reviewed a sponsorship letter which was received for the Indiana Woodland Steward which provides newsletters to all woodland owners in Dubois County. The request this is was for \$250. A motion was heard and seconded to approve paying \$250 to the Indiana Woodland Steward. (*Goepfner/Fleck*) The motion carried unanimously.

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

### 319 PROJECT

Brown reported that the current grant was completed on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. A new application has been submitted with Pike County as the lead. It is currently pending approval.

### CRP

Bary reported that the deadline for CRP re-enrolls is September 9<sup>th</sup>. We had 8 re-enrolls this year and are on course to reach that deadline.

## LSI

Ruschau reported that the corn is looking healthy, and she is working on getting the Ag Committee together for a meeting. Brown stated she and Ruschau are working on creating a fall workshop for November.

## RENTAL EQUIPMENT

Condra stated that the rental is ramping up and that both the seeder and drill are currently out. She has been fielding a lot of calls and directing people to the website to review the equipment before committing to renting. She also noted that the rental contracts have been updated to reflect Alan Smock as the point of contact for assistance.

## COVER CROP COST SHARE

Brown stated that the Dubois SWCD has received \$15,000 from The Nature Conservancy. These are funds from a CWI grant which were not spent and need to be spent before the end of this year. The board agreed to the following stipulations for applicants: Minimum 10 Acres Maximum 50 Acres, Full Field/Section, Only Pay For Seed, 1<sup>st</sup> Come 1<sup>st</sup> Serve, Multiple Species (minimum 3) Mix Per NRCS Specs, Completed Application To SWCD By September 30<sup>th</sup>, Expectation Of No-Till In Spring 2023, One Application Per Farmer/Producer/Operator/Beneficial Owner (if applying for more than one then all subsequent application are ranked lower)

Brown will work with Bary to create a press release advertising the funds and update the application.

## LOCAL WORKING GROUP NATURAL RESOURCE DISCUSSION & RANKING

Brown explained the purpose of EQIP Ranking. Williams reviewed what was funded in the last round, noting that 8 were funded. Brown reviewed the previous years ranking. She spoke with Emily Kelly who recommended that one of the resource concerns be moved to plants. Williams recommended keeping the Plant Pest Pressure as it relates to invasives which the office get a lot of call for. She also noted that Dubois was ranked #2 in our region and #5 in the state for funding. Eckerle recommended that the ranking be kept the same as it worked well for securing funding. Williams said that the 13 applications not funded this year will be deferred to next year. Brown reported that two people in the community submitted ranking who are not here today. Brown reviewed their recommendations. A motion was heard and seconded to keep the ranking the same as last year, see below. (*Eckerle/Fleck*)

1. Ephemeral Gully Erosion
2. Classic Gully Erosion
3. Nutrients Transported to Surface Water
4. Plant Pest Pressure
5. Sediment Transported to Surface Water
6. Organic Matter Deletion
7. Plant Productivity and Health
8. Compaction
9. Feed and Forage Imbalance
10. Terrestrial habitat for Wildlife and Invertebrates

The motion carried unanimously.

Brown distributed the Local Working Group Survey FY2023. There was a general agreement to add abandoned coal mines, which encompass roughly 750 acres.

## NRCS

Williams reviewed guidance about the Inflation Reduction Act and what it means for Indiana. Brown noted that it could possibly double the funds available for EQIP and CSP in the state. Brown reported that today was William's last day as acting DC in Dubois and that starting Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup> Samantha Dame will be the new acting DC.

Williams left at 6:16pm

## SOIL JUDGING

Brown reported that the soil judging invitational is scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>. Travis will key out the pits on the 26<sup>th</sup> and there will be no rain date. Brown noted that Julie Loehr is assisting Andy Helming and Susan Wagner's Envirothon teams. She asked if the SWCD wants to pay Loehr for time and mileage, this was tabled. The Southwest Envirothon is scheduled for March 14, 2023.

## INVASIVE

Finch reported that sign up for the September 10<sup>th</sup> Invasive Training is full and we have a wait list. Finch attended the state-wide CISMA meeting and is now involved in a stiltgrass working group. She is now an ED Maps verifier for the state online.

Finch reported that Martin County SWCD has approved to pay 1/3 cost of her October conference but they are maxed out at \$0.44 per mile. Daviess county is in agreement with \$0.44 per mile. A motion was heard and seconded to approve \$0.44 per mile for Finch's conference. (*Eckerle/Helming*) The motion carried unanimously.

## GRANT APPLICATION

Brown reported that she is working with Orange and Washington County SWCDs on a CWI grant to promote healthy and sustainable pastures plus invasive cost share, totaling \$230,000. Dubois SWCD's cash match is set at \$10,100 over the 3-year life of the grant, for mileage, education, and specialist salary. The proposal includes \$20,000 for a technician and \$2,000 in educational outreach, with the remainder being cost share for livestock related practices. The board agreed to proceed.

## CWI HUAP

Bary reported that \$2,000 will go out this month. All funds have been allocated and there is a wait list. Everyone is actively working on their projects.

## GREENER PASTURES

The greener pastures event took place last week. Brown reported that there were 115 people in attendance. The feedback was good. Dubois will host next, and Brown suggested that Lindauer could be a good location.

## FORESTRY COMMITTEE

Brown reported that the forest service will share the Four Rivers Forestry Committee booth at the Ferdinand Folk Festival. They will host a forest walk during the event. October 8<sup>th</sup> will be a field tour in Perry County. IFWOA has scheduled a September 13<sup>th</sup> virtual presentation with Doug Tallamy and their convention is scheduled for the first weekend in November at Clifty Falls.

**OPERATIONS**

Sermersheim reported that she and Fleck attended the budget meeting, and the budget was approved as presented. They noted that the open house was appreciated. Brown suggested that this could become a yearly event.

**ELECTIONS**

Brown reported that Sermersheim’s term will end in January 2022. Sermersheim stated that she will run for election again. Three individuals are required to serve on the election committee, of the three one must be a supervisor. Helming and Fleck agreed to serve on the committee.

**ANNUAL MEETING**

It was decided that the annual meeting will take place on Tuesday, February 14, 2023. Possible venues were discussed, Brown will research and report back. Kent Yeager from Harrison County was discussed as a possible speaker with a theme of “Barn to Table.” Condra will get his card to Brown.

**ASSOCIATE SUPERVISORS**

Brown asked that if the board knew of anyone who would like to get involved as an associate supervisor, to build experience with the SWCD, who we are and we do, to please let her know as we need to build out our associate supervisor base.

**REPORTS**

**Supervisor Reports** – Sermersheim discussed the District Supervisor Staff Training.

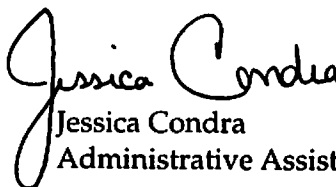
**Staff Reports** - Staff Reports were sent out via e-mail.

**Partner Reports: ISDA** – Gogel reported that Jennifer Thumb with the ISDA is working on an educational tour in the southeast and northeast for legislators. In 2023 they would like to come to the southwest and she asked for recommendations on where to tour. Brown suggested that they start at Mike Braun’s property.

Finch left at 7pm.

The meeting adjourned at 7:03pm. The next meeting is scheduled for October 6<sup>th</sup>. Brown will contact the supervisors the week before to verify their availability.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jessica Condra  
Administrative Assistant

Approved on: 