



Dubois County Soil and Water Conservation District Meeting
1486 Executive Blvd., Suite A, Jasper, IN 47546
812-482-1171, Ext 3, www.duboisswcd.org
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Thursday, October 9, @ 4:30 pm
Jasper Public Library Room 136

Present:

Brenda Sermersheim, Chair
Glenn Goepfner, Vice Chair
Arlene Fleck, Supervisor, Treasurer
Mark Welp, Supervisor

Andrew Fry, SWCD Resource Specialist
Corbyn Schnell, SWCD Resource Specialist
Kaylee Jacob, SWCD Administrative Assistant
Veronica Helming, SWCD Executive Director

SWCD Chair Brenda Sermersheim, opened the meeting at 4:31 pm.

Sermersheim asked if there were any changes to the agenda. There are no changes to the agenda

MINUTES

A motion was heard and seconded to approve the September 4th, Board Meeting Minutes with no changes (*Welp/Goepfner*). The motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Helming reviewed the September Financial Report. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Financial Report. (*Fleck/Welp*) The motion was carried unanimously. Next, Helming went over the Internal Controls. All documents balanced with Quickbooks, bank statements, and paper documents. Next, Helming reviewed the Register of Claims to be paid. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Register of Claims. (*Fleck/Goepfner*) The motion was carried unanimously.

Next Helming went over possible investments. Discussion was made about putting the proceeds from the LSI bean harvest into a CD. Sermersheim asked Helming to investigate and see if any stipulations needed to be addressed prior. After investigating, Helming stated it is acceptable to put LSI bean harvest proceeds into a CD. Discussion about not putting all of the proceeds into a CD due to the better cost of buying 2026's seed in 2025 was also made. The board agrees that a shorter CD investment(3-4 months) would be a better option compared to anything longer than 6 months. Discussion about moving projected proceeds now rather than waiting to see what actual dollar amount of beans will bring was made and if the beans do better than projected, the SWCD can always open a 2nd CD. A motion was heard and seconded to approve Helming investing \$20,000 into a short term CD from the projected bean harvest this fall. (*Fleck/Goepfner*) The motion was carried unanimously.

SWCD Strategic Action Updates

A. Operations

a. Drill/Seeder Update

- i. Jacob told the board that the busy season for Seeder and Drill has arrived. Prior to the meeting Helming emailed spreadsheets for Seeder and Drill. Jacob stated anything highlighted in red is payments to be expected, totaling about \$800. Seeder has a new acre counter installed and Smock relayed he would finish setting it up over the weekend following the board meeting. The new acre counter on the Drill is working great along with the makeshift box Smock included to keep the counter out of the weather.

b. Annual Meeting

i. Awards

1. Discussion was made about possible award winners. As everyone pondered, Helming mentioned that the awards could be on a rotating schedule rather than trying to find someone for Conservation Farmer of the Year, OFS Forest Stewardship, and Friend of Conservation awarded by the County, along with the already received, River Friendly award, awarded by the state. Semersheim said she would like to see the awards continued every year and asked if the same person can be awarded twice. Helming thinks someone could receive two awards in the same year but would double check. Helming said first of the year is when the decision needs to be made. After continuing discussion about possibly awarding the next generation for the continuance of conservation practices and reaching out to Brown for OFS Forest Stewardship for thoughts, it was decided to think about possible award winners and bring feedback to November's board meeting.

c. Deadlines

- i. Helming informed the board about the Election Committee being submitted. Arlene Fleck, Annette Applegate, and Kaleb Stenftenagel make up this year's Election Committee. Helming also stated the Annual Meeting Information has all been submitted and Nominees for Election are due December 1st.

d. Annual Report

- i. Discussion was held about deciding if the Ad sponsor Cost should stay at \$50. Helming informed the board that Ferdinand News printing and circulation cost is around \$1,800. Sermersheim asked what last year's cost was. Helming responded the current cost has raised about \$200. The board agrees they would like to stay with the \$50 due to businesses making cuts in order to save money where they can in today's economy.
- ii. Discussion was also made about Annual Meeting Sponsors. Annual Meeting Sponsors cost is \$500. The Board agrees to keep that the same as well. A motion was heard and seconded to keep both the Ad Sponsor Cost and Annual Meeting Sponsor Cost the same as previous years. (*Fleck/Welp*) The motion was carried unanimously.

B. Stormwater - NO UPDATE

C. Soil Health

a. VUJ Land Stewardship Initiative Update

- i. Fry sent out the bid for cover crop seed and let the board know Andrew Helming was the best priced.
- ii. Fry and Helming attended a meeting at VUJC about renewing the MOU. In attendance at the meeting was Eckerle, Fry, Helming, Adam Walkins(New Dean) and Michael Morrison(takes care of the property). Some key points during the meeting was the ECAPP Program money usage and being able to better utilize LSI for students that attend VUJC. Adam would like to only renew the MOU for a year because he is new and would like to get a better understanding about LSI and its use. Meetings will be held bi-monthly to better stay up to date. Sermersheim said she would like Helming to get a list together of total investment dollars put into LSI. A comment during the meeting was made about lost revenue from not being able to rent the ground. The board agrees that while the SWCD may not pay rent, other investments and substantial improvements have been made and would like that dollar figure. Sermersheim said she would like Fry to reach out to VUJC about receiving a physical copy of agreements needing to be signed and completed by end of year when the current MOU expires.
- iii. As far as the ECAPP Program money. Adam said the best he can do is try and help with some of the input cost at LSI. SWCD is to turn input bills in and Adam will send them up the ladder in hopes of reimbursement.

b. Let's Dig

- i. Fry issued ballots to the committee about implementing policies. Results have come in but due to the lapse in federal funding, Fry does not have access to his work email and can not update at this time.

D. Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

a. ISAC Update

- i. Schnell updated the board about her meeting that was held on September 23. The last Weed Wrangle of the year will be held on Saturday, November 8th at Old Town Lake in Ferdinand. Schnell asked the board if they would like to contribute money to the Johnson Grass Flyer's (included in handout) printing cost and being included in the property assessments received by homeowners in 2026. She also asked the board if they would like to see any changes made to the flyer. Corbyn stated ISAC is contributing \$500 to the \$2700 total cost to include the flyer in the assessments. The board agrees they would like to keep the SWCD Logo on the flyer and add our phone number. It was agreed that while we may not be a part of the weed board, we can help direct people in the direction of the weed board if they call in. Helming mentioned adding a URL for anyone that would like to type in the URL rather than scanning the QR Code. Jacob will see to the changes made prior to being sent in the property assessments. The board agrees they would like to also contribute \$500 to the printing and distribution of the Johnson Grass Flyer.

E. Livestock Production

a. Clean Water Indiana Projects

i. 2023-2025, Dubois, Orange, Washington

1. Schnell checked a cover crop practice Monday and payment has been issued to the producer. She is waiting on seed tags from another cover crop cost share producer and a HUAP that is almost complete. CWI will then have about \$373 left to spend and Helming will check with Orange to see if they have extra to send to Dubois to help possibly one more producer before the end of year.

F. Forest Management

NO UPDATE

Reports

A. Supervisor Reports

B. Staff Monthly Activity Reports: Provided via email prior to meeting.

C. Partner Reports

Other Business

Helming handed out QR Codes on business cards asking everyone to please take the comprehensive plan survey for Dubois County. She stated about 900 responses have been recorded so far.

Schnell asked the board if monies could be approved to help landscape and clean the LSI sign. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the spending on landscape and cleaning for the LSI Sign located at VUJC would not exceed \$250. (*Fleck/Welp*) The motion was carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 6:08pm.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, November 6th, at 4:30pm at the USDA Sever Center Conference Room(to be determined).

Respectfully Submitted,

Kaylee Jacob
Administrative Assistant

Approved On: