



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, September 4, 2025 @ 4:30 pm
Jasper USDA Service Center Conference Room

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
Andrea Gogel, ISDA Resource Specialist

SWCD Chair Brenda Sermersheim, opened the meeting at 4:30 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 July 10th, Board Meeting Minutes with no changes (*Goepfner/Fleck*). The motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

SWCD Strategic Action Updates

A. Operations

a. Drill/Seeder Update

- i. Jacob updated the board about the location of the new Loup Electronics Acre Counter. The acre counter was supposed to be placed on the seeder but was accidentally placed on the No-Till Drill. The drill's acre counter was also acting up and Jacob wanted to wait to update the board about the malfunctioning acre counter until it was rented one more time to be sure it wasn't caused by user error. Jacob was asked what Loup Electronic's Acre Counter Cost as a reminder. Jacob responded with around \$275. A motion was heard and seconded to approve another purchase, at \$275, for another acre counter from Loup Electronics. (*Welp/Fleck*) The motion was carried unanimously.

- b. Annual Meeting
 - i. Helming asked the board to think about ticket charges for the annual meeting. The board asked what the price per ticket was last year. Helming responded with \$15. Helming stated to everyone that a decision does not need to be made right now but something to think about as winter approaches.
 - ii. Meal Options for the annual meeting were decided by the board. Annual meeting meal will be Pulled Pork and Cashew Chicken for the meat selection along with German Fries, Green Beans, and Slaw.
 - iii. Annual Meeting Awards is another thing that needs to start being thought about, said Helming. Helming is looking for recommendations for this year's award winners. It was mentioned that finding someone every year is getting challenging. Helming mentioned a possibility of doing it every three years. Eckerle asked the SWCD to think about who has come in for conservation work because we can see who is being proactive about conservation work. Helming said we have a few weeks before it all needs to be decided and just wanted it to be on the brain for the next few weeks.
- c. Annual Report
 - i. Helming asked the board if they would like to keep the Sponsor Ad cost at \$50. Helming was asked if Ferdinand News cost had stayed the same. Helming responded the last two years have been the same, but would reach out to Ferdinand News to verify.
- d. Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy
 - i. Helming approached the board about sending Schnell to the Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy, a year long training. Helming said Dubois SWCD is missing some in officer training with the recent turnover that has happened. Gogel agreed it is a good training for Schnell to attend. Total Cost is \$950 for a few overnights and webinar sessions. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the \$950 to allow Schnell to attend this year long training. (*Fleck/Eckerle*) The motion was carried unanimously.
- e. Patoka Lake Clean Up Donation
 - i. Helming asked the board if they would like to donate to the clean up day at Patoka Lake again this year. Sermersheim feels like she remembers this being a yearly donation to help with the clean up costs and asked Helming how much was typically donated. Helming said \$250. The board agrees they would like to continue donating for the Patoka Lake Clean Up Day. A motion was heard and seconded to approve a \$250 donation to the Patoka Lake Clean Up Day being held on September 27, 2025 this year. (*Eckerle/Goepfner*) The motion was carried unanimously.
- f. Indiana Woodland Steward Donation
 - i. Helming asked the board if they would like to donate \$250 to the printing cost for the Woodland Steward Newsletter again this year. The donation would allow help for printing cost and distribution. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the \$250 donation to the printing and distribution

cost of the Indiana Woodland Steward Donation. (*Fleck/Welp*) The motion was carried unanimously.

- g. Soil Judging Volunteers
 - Soil Judging will be held on September 17, 2025. Helming asked the board for help that evening to allow everything to run smoothly. Sermersheim and Goepfner both said they will be there, however they will be cutting it close to the 3 o'clock start time. Helming said they should be more than fine and thanked them for the help. Helming is to send out location at a later date.
- B. Clean Water Indiana Grant Application
 - a. Helming updated the board about the upcoming Reclaim Mine Ground Grant. She submitted the grant Wednesday the 3rd. The grant allocates 320 thousand dollars over the 6 counties covered in this grant. Sermersheim asked when the expected date of knowing if we received the funds. Helming stated we will know October 21,2025
- C. Stormwater - NO UPDATE
- D. Soil Health
 - a. VUJ Land Stewardship Initiative Update
 - i. Fry mentioned to the board that 43 individuals have RSVP'd for the LSI Showcase. Eckerle and Welp asked if they could also be on the attendee list and Sermersheim said she would call Fry on Monday if she will be attending.
 - ii. Eckerle talked to Sermersheim and Goepfner previously about locking in grain prices and according to Sermersheim, this is something you have to act quickly on. Eckerle does not feel it will get any better. Sermersheim felt it was a good move and asked Helming to be on the look out for a contract needing to be signed via mail.
 - iii. Friday the 12th will be the Ag Committee Meeting. Fry would like everyone to take a look at a few ideas for future crop rotation plans and make a decision.
 - iv. Update on ECAPP, Fry mentioned the funds did get transferred to VUJC from VU. However, SWCD is not allowed to hold the funds because the SWCD is a government entity.
 - b. Let's Dig
 - i. Fry held a meeting August 21st. Out of the 6 total members 3 RSVP'd and out of the 3 RSVP'd only 1 showed up to the meeting. They decided to make use of the time given and draft some policies for the future that need to be voted on by the committee. Fry and Schnell attended an outreach event in Holland and sparked a lot of interest in site visits for invasives and soil testing.
- E. Livestock Production
 - a. Clean Water Indiana Projects
 - i. 2023-2025, Dubois, Orange, Washington

- 1. Left over funds may get used. Gogel and Schnell have a site visit Friday the 5th.
- ii. Greener Pastures Update
 - 1. Over 130 people attended. Great turn out for the beautiful day. Keynote speaker was not able to attend due to recent back surgery, but Eck was able to fill the speaking part with Dr. Kaiser.

F. Forest Management

NO UPDATE

Reports

A. Supervisor Reports

- a. Eckerle noted Johnson Grass looks like it is getting sprayed in Dubois Co.

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

C. Partner Reports

- a. Gogel with ISDA said soil sampling is now open. ISDA would like to see testing that has either never done a sample or has not been done in the last 4 years. They will test row crop ground but hay and pasture, up to 100 acres, will take priority.
- b. Gogel also mentioned that the CREP Program is statewide. Ask FSA if you are eligible to enroll. Does not have to be in the CRP Program but can already be CRP if wanting to roll into CREP. CREP is mainly for practices along water.

Other Business

Sermersheim wanted to inform the board that her term will be up and her current position will be up for election in February. She stated she has been on the SWCD Board for 18 years and would like to see someone else fill the role. Helming has a possibility of someone and Sermersheim also has someone interested. Helming mentioned needing a chair for the election committee. Fleck said she would be chair for the election committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35pm.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Thursday, October 9th, at 4:30pm at the USDA Sever Center Conference Room.

Respectfully Submitted,

Approved On:

Kaylee Jacob
Administrative Assistant

