



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, April 4, 2024 @ 4:30 pm
Jasper USDA Service Center: Conference Room

Present:

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

Clay Cox, NRCS District Conservationist
Aubree Pond, SWCD Executive Director
Veronica Helming, SWCD Administrative Assistant
Melissa Ruschau, SWCD Resource Specialist

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

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

MINUTES

Sermersheim note there should be one change to the March minutes. She did not call all the advertisers in the Annual Report. She just called the ones that paid for an advertisement that were not in the report. Sermersheim asked for a motion to approve the March minutes with the one change. A motion was heard and seconded to approve both the minutes. (*Fleck/Eckerle*) The motion was carried unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Helming reviewed the March 2024 Financial Report and Internal Control Form. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Financial Report. (*Goepfner/Fleck*) The motion carried unanimously. Next, Helming reviewed the Register of Claims to be paid. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the claims. (*Goepfner/Welp*) The motion carried unanimously.

Helming also stated we need approval to pay the Superior Ag bill. She received the bill on April 3rd, and she had already completed the finances for the month. The bill is due on April 25th which would be before the next board meeting. A motion was heard and seconded to approve payment of the Superior Ag bill. (*Eckerle/Welp*). The motion carried unanimously.

Huntingburg Event Center Check

Helming contacted the Huntingburg Event Center to see if they have received their check of \$825.00 for the Annual Meeting Venue. They have not received their check. The check was mailed on February 2nd. She mailed it to their PO Box. They have kept checking but have yet to receive it. Helming was wanting to know how the Board would like to proceed. Should we put a stop payment on the check or let it ride. A stop payment fee is around \$38 per check. The check should not be able to be cashed since it is made to a business, it should only be able to be deposited into a business account with the business name on the account. A motion was heard and seconded to not place a stop payment on the check and issue the Huntingburg Event Center a new check for \$825.00. (*Goepfner/Fleck*) The motion carried unanimously.

SWCD Strategic Action Updates

A. Operations

a. Drill/Seeder Update

- i. Pond stated there have been issues with the drill since the start of the season. It has been rented out twice and each time there has been issues. Both times were not due to user error. According to Alan Smock, the first issues was going to happen eventually. Him and Duane Hopf did a temporary fix that would last a few years. The second issue was when putting the drill back together during winter maintenance they switched the two sides to where the clutch would not engage. There was much discussion on how the office handles the equipment and making sure they are documenting damage and usage correctly. Eckerle would like Helming to bring a revenue and expenses report to each board meeting to show how beneficial the drill and seeder are. Last year when the board went over the drill and seeder policy, they decided to only rent to producers withing the surrounding counties. The discussed that sending them out of the county is a lot of wear and tear on the machine when not being used for many acres. A motion was heard and seconded to only rent to producers within Dubois County. *(Eckerle/Welp)* The motion carried unanimously.

b. Policy Updates

i. Credit Card Policy

1. Helming is working on redoing the Policy Manuel. She brought the revised Credit Card Policy. The Board reviewed the credit card policy. Sermersheim noted there needed to be one change. The word "loaned" needed to be changed. It was decided to change it to "that employee will be authorized to use that card". A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Credit Card Policy with the wording change. *(Eckerle/Goepner)* The motion carried unanimously.

ii. Telework Policy

1. Next the Board reviewed the Telework Policy. After reviewing the policy, Sermersheim asked if the policy fit with the County's view on teleworking. Pond stated that since we are housed in a federal building and if the building were to close for certain reasons, then we would have no where else to go. Markie Rhodes, Human Resources for Dubois County said it would be a good idea for a telework policy to be in place. A motion was heard and seconded to approve the Telework Policy as presented. *(Welp/Goepner)* The motion carried unanimously.

Cox arrived at 4:55pm.

c. Jasper High School Spirit House Sponsorship Request

- i. Jasper High School is creating a new campaign called "Spirit Houses". There goal is to create an atmosphere where every student has a sense of belonging and ownership of their experiences at JHS. They are asking for sponsors for the project. There are three levels of sponsorship: Gold Level \$1000, Black Level \$750, and White Level: Donation of your choosing. The Board felt that if we sponsored one school, we would have to do

something for all the county schools. This also does not support our mission. The Board decided to pass on this opportunity.

d. State Envirothon

- i. Jasper FFA has advanced to the state contest. They came in fourth at the regional contest. Perry FFA is only sending one team to state so that moves the fourth-place team up to third. In the past a grant has helped cover registration and hotel for the team. Ruschau and Pond are asking if the Board would like to cover the registration fee for Jasper FFA and the hotel rooms. There would be three hotel rooms at \$75 per room. This would be a total of \$300 for state Envirothon. A motion was heard and seconded to approve sponsoring Jasper FFA at the State Envirothon contest by covering their registration fee and hotel rooms. (*Fleck/Eckerle*) The motion carried unanimously.

B. Stormwater: No Update

C. Soil Health

a. VUJC Land Stewardship Initiative Update

- i. Ruschau gave the update. She had gone out to the field this afternoon to look at the cover crops. The barley is 8-14 inches tall, and the clover is 6-8 inches tall. The tilled strip corners are marked, more flags will be placed before Glen Uebelhor starts tilling. Potash has been spread since the last meeting. There were flags from the city in the field borders of field 2. Knies Construction called 811. Ruschau is checking on this to see what is going on.

b. Let's Dig

- i. There have been 18 site visits completed in quarter one of this year. The paperwork for quarter one is due on April 15th. Ruschau plans on advertising the other 12 site visits at the Memorial Hospital Earth Day event. The \$3800 has not been received yet for quarter 4 of 2023. The next Let's Dig meeting is on Monday, April 29th at 3:30.

D. Invasive Species and Noxious Weeds

a. ISAC Meeting

- i. The ISAC meeting was on Tuesday, April 2nd at St. Benedict's Brew works. They held the meeting there since the Spring Speaker Series is being held there on Thursday, April 18th. The speaker is Nathanael Pilla. He is going to be talking about botany and beer. There will be a hike at 1pm at the Ferdinand State Forest. The hike is currently on a wait list. The presentation is at 6pm. Also discussed at the meeting is hosting another prairie walk at the parklands this summer. They are hoping to partner with the Jasper Parks and Recreation Department again, since the event was so well-liked last year.

E. Livestock Production

a. Clean Water Indiana Projects

- i. 2023-2025, Dubois, Orange, Washington: No Update

F. Forest Management: No Update

G. Native Plant, Pollinator Habitat, Small Farms: No Update

Reports

- A. Supervisor Reports: None
- B. Staff Monthly Activity Reports: Provided via email prior to meeting.
- C. Partner Reports:
 - a. NRCS
 - i. Cox stated there was not a lot funded through EQIP. Also, CRP checks are about to start so if anyone knows of anyone who has questions about their CRP then send them to Cox.

Other Business

Southern Indiana Grazing Conference

Ruschau, Helming, and Cox attended the Southern Indiana Grazing Conference on Wednesday, March 27th. There were some of our local producers there as well. The main speaker was Dr. Will Winter. His topics included, "Herd Health-Holistic Options that Work" and "Energy Supplements for Drought and for Low Brix Forages". He did not stay on topic. There were many inflammatory remarks made. Cox was wanting to make the Board aware of what happened and what was said at the Conference incase they would hear anything out in the community.

Audit

The audit is still ongoing. Bill Mehling needs a few other documents to support the numbers entered on Gateway. Helming could not find anything showing support for the numbers. She is creating documents and working on figuring out how these numbers were calculated. This audit is unique in that five different individuals have done the finances from 2020-2023. Helming is planning on enforcing these new documents for future years so nothing is missed at the next audit.

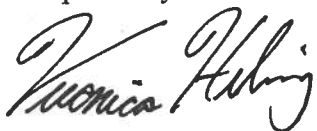
Lower East Fork Grant

The Pike, Daviess, Dubois SWCDs have secured a state funded IDEM 319 grant that will target the critical areas within the Lower East Fork White Watershed. On April 24th, there will be a meeting to learn about the Watershed Management Plan.

The meeting adjourned at 5:42pm.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2nd, at 4:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,



Veronica Helming
Administrative Assistant

Approved On: May 2, 2024

Alicia Black

Brandon Clemens

Glenn Goepfer

Mark Wolf