



Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District
10729 Randal Avenue - AURORA, IN 47001 - Phone (812) 926-2406 Ext. 3

Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday February 13, 2025
9:00 am - Purdue Extension Dearborn County

Supervisors

Ken Gunkel - Chairman
Mathew Johnson – Vice Chair-Not Present
John Kruse
Chris Powell - Not Present
Tom Gaynor

Associate Supervisors

Robert Schroeder- Not Present
Eric Callahan - Not Present
Pat Holland
John & Jane Lech
Dan Kemper
George Bley
Joe Wohlfrom - Not Present

SWCD Staff

Beth Terrill
Erin Huber
Matt Simpson
Watershed –
Heather Wirth

NRCS

Mat Jarvis

Extension

Jeff Hermes

FFA EC - Not Present

FFA - SD - Not Present

ISDA - Not Present

Ken Gunkel, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:03 am.

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting, January 2025 had been reviewed by email. John Kruse made a motion to approve, and Tom Gaynor seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report

The claim vouchers for January 2025 were presented to the board for review. A motion to approve the claim vouchers was made by Tom Gaynor and seconded by John Kruse. Motion carried.

Extension

- *Jeff Hermes reported there will be an 8-week Virtual Beginning Farmer workshop starting January 24 and there are 31 participants. He is currently on week 6.
- *A Tri-State Green Conference was held in Sharonville, Ohio on February 6 with 946 individuals present.
- *There will be an Indiana Small Farm Conference on March 4-5 in Hendricks County. Jeff is working with a Grass to Garden program in Union County teaching tactics on how to start a community-based garden.

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- *An Open House will be held at Greenacres Michaela Farms on February 28, 2025.
- *There will be a Pesticide Applicator Program at Zimmer Tractor on March 21, 2025

FFA - East Central and South Dearborn were not present. Roy ~~Herman~~ ^{Johnson} asked Beth Terrill to email him the events that were happening with DC SWCD.

ISDA- Not Present - Mark Thomas will be starting Soil Testing on February 28, 2025.

NRCS - Matt Jarvis is processing Equip applications for livestock and fencing. These are due the end of the month and there have been 43 submitted.

Old Business - The Sheep/Goat Field Day has been rescheduled till sometime in September with Cora from Bartholomew County.

New Business - The Dearborn County SWCD Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, March 13th at 6:30 pm at the Liberty Theater at 229 Walnut St Lawrenceburg, IN. A board meeting will be that morning at 9:00 am at the same location and board members will arrive at 5:00 pm that evening.

- A few board members were able to help with the Annual Report and it was a long and grueling process. A suggestion was made to possibly get interns and more volunteers to help next year and to let those volunteers know a specific time frame to sign up for.
- The Annual Conference was discussed and the board congratulated Ken Gunkel for becoming Supervisor of the Year! Ken passed around the program from the Annual Conference and showed the plaque he received as his award.
- Beth Terrill brought up the need to increase the credit card limit from \$3,000 to \$5,000 due to the card being declined at the conference from an extra charge of incidentals and the admission for the conference. John Kruse made a motion to increase the limit, and Tom Gaynor seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- A meeting is being planned for an OKI RCC Annual Meeting Planning Session for March 6 from 1:00 - 2:30. John Kruse will plan to attend along with Beth Terrill, and Erin Huber.

Staff Reports

- **Heather Wirth** - Sent her report. She has received responses back from the Stream Bank Workshop where 34 people attended.
- **Beth Terrill** - Wrote a Supervisor Training Grant for \$1,000, was approved and will be deposited within 35 days.
 - * Followed up with Jon Seymour, Speaker for Annual Meeting and his topic will be about "Putting People in Nature."
 - * Nominated Ken Gunkel for Supervisor of the Year at Annual Conference.
 - * Made appointment for Ken Gunkel and myself to meet with Lt. Gov Micah Beckwith.
 - * Has been working on door prizes for Annual Meeting.
 - * Sent invitations to Commissioners, County Council Members, DC Attorney, Senator Randy Maxwell, Lt. Gov Micah Beckwith for the Annual Meeting.
 - * Received an invoice for \$500 for Historic Hoosier Hills towards support for projects in the community for project development, board development and leadership, community events and workshops, fundraising and other activities. The board suggested inviting Kim Jolly to the March meeting for more information.
 - * The Dearborn County 4-H Association requested a donation for their awards program. The board suggested to give a \$25 donation.



Erin Huber - Sent her report. Erin has had 2 customers coming in wanting soil samples done.

* Erin will be having a pond workshop on March 20th at the Gladys Russell Wildlife Refuge. Food will be provided.

* Plans are being improvised for the Home & Garden Show next year. Erin received good feedback from the event and would like to have more tabling events for next year.

* Erin asked for bios from George Bley, Pat Holland and John Kruse for the slide show at the Annual Meeting.

Matt Simpson - Attended several meetings and events and talked about upcoming meetings and events.

* Matt will be ordering plants and participating in the Native Plant Sale with pickup on May 15 and 16.

* Tree Giveaway will be April 25 at Bright Meadows Park.

* A motion was made by Tom Gaynor and seconded by John Kruse for Matt to attend the Indiana MS4 Annual Meeting for \$160 & IDEM workshop for \$100. The cost for the room in Plainfield is \$179.00. Motion was carried.

Supervisor, Associate Updates/Comments

Ken Gunkel - Showed the board members his plaque for winning Supervisor of the Year and thanked the board for their vote of confidence in him.

John Lech - mentioned the Monarch butterfly population is at a 30-year low.

Dan Kemper - commented Matt Simpson did a good job on the tree printout, would like to meet with Loretta Reagan when Erin meets with her for soil testing.

George Bley - wondered if there were flyers for the Annual Meeting, Rocky is home and is receiving in home service.

John Kruse - thought the Commissioner meeting went well.

Jane Lech, Tom Gaynor and Pat Holland - all had nothing to contribute.

A motion to adjourn was made at 11:08 by John Kruse and seconded by Tom Gaynor.

Beth Terrill

District Coordinator

March Birthdays- None

Next Meeting - March 13 - Liberty Theater 9:00 am - Annual Meeting 6:30 pm Arrive at 5:00 pm.

APPROVED:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor





