



Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District
10729 Randall Avenue, Suite 2 – Aurora, IN 47001 – Phone (812) 926-2406, Ext. 3

MINUTES – REGULAR BOARD MEETING
January 14, 2021
8:30 AM – Vineyard Community Church of Aurora

Supervisor

Ken Gunkel - Chairman
Eric Callahan – Vice Chair
Darla Alford – not present
Mr. Pat Holland
John Kruse

Associate Supervisors

Brad Dawson – not present
Tom Klump
Rocky Schroeder

SWCD Staff–

Jessica Rayburn
Vickie Riggs
Jennifer Hughes - Teleconference
Watershed – Heather Wirth
NRCS – Matt Jarvis
Extension – John Hawley - Teleconference
FFA – East Central – not present
South Dearborn – not present
ISDA – Mark Thomas - Teleconference

The board meeting was called to order by Ken Gunkel, Chairman, at 8:34 AM.

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting, December 10, 2020, were reviewed, motion to approve was made by John Kruse, seconded by Mr. Pat Holland, motion carried.

Financial Report

The claims voucher for December was presented to the Board for review. A motion to approve the claims vouchers was made by Eric Callahan, seconded John, motion carried.

Extension

- John Hawley called in via teleconference. He said there is a Cisma meeting tonight partnering with SWCD. He said another virtual Master Gardener program will begin in March and is in partnership with surrounding counties. He has many upcoming events for January:
 - An Animal Science Lunch & Learn Webinar series.
 - A Beginning Farmer online workshop (does cost \$48.00).
 - A Gardening Lunch & Learn Webinar series.

For more information on any of the upcoming events please feel free to reach out to John. He is hoping to partner with Dearborn County SWCD, FSA, NRCS, and Farm Bureau to host a hybrid Farming/AG kick off update event. He said that recording from virtual events can be found on the Purdue YouTube channel. John Kruse asking John Hawley about the South Dearborn invasive species article that was in the local newspaper and how the SWCD Board could get involved or assist with that project. John Hawley said he would let the teacher/coach know that the SWCD Board is interesting in aiding with that project.



Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District

10729 Randall Avenue, Suite 2 – Aurora, IN 47001 – Phone (812) 926-2406, Ext. 3

FFA

- Neither FFA was present. Ken did pick up calendars from the East Central FFA to distribute at the board meeting.

ISDA

- Mark Thomas called in via teleconference. He said he has been helping with status reviews. He has extended duties covering a CREP Watershed due to a retirement and hiring freeze. He has helped with designed watersheds. He has also been conducting field visits.

NRCS

- Matt Jarvis is working on the new round of EQIP. There have been 47 applications entered. He has sent the practice reminder letters. He will start conducting field visits. He said that the Soil Con position for the Aurora office has been posted.

Old Business

- Water/Ways Update – Ken gave an update that the six host locations have been release. One of the locations selected was a SWCD.
- Per Diem- Jessica Rayburn informed the Supervisor that Per Diem payment process has changed and had paperwork for them to fill out after the meeting.

New Business

- Annual Conference Review – Ken thought the conference went better than expected with everything being held virtually. He said that he did vote for both resolutions during the business meeting. Both resolutions passed. Ken also mentioned that he participated in the Urban Ag Roundtable session and he was impressed with the PUSH (Promoting Urban Soil Health) program. He feels it could possible be something implemented to assist Dearborn County landowners. Vickie and Matt were very impressed with the Cover Crop session. Jennifer liked that the sessions were recorded.
- Designation of Depositary – A motion for Jessica Rayburn to be the Designation of Depositary was made by John, seconded by Mr. Holland, motion carried.

Staff Reports

- Vickie Riggs sent her report. She has been in contact with John Hawley about partnering on upcoming events. She will be presenting the River Friendly Farmers with their award and recording the presentation. She asked the Board if they would like to continue with the forage and soil testing program and they were all in favor of allocating the \$2,000.00 for the program. She mentioned storing the equipment at her residents and the Board was in favor.
- Heather Wirth sent her report. She finished the Whitewater River Watershed but has not received the close-out letter yet. She sent out a newsletter for all three watersheds.



Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District

10729 Randall Avenue, Suite 2 – Aurora, IN 47001 – Phone (812) 926-2406, Ext. 3

- Jennifer Hughes sent her report.
- Jessica Rayburn sent her report. She handed out the 2020 updated Annual Plan of Work for the Board to review and discuss at the February meeting.

Supervisor Updates/Comments

- Ken mentioned that he will be starting the process of gathering information to conduct Annual Staff Reviews.
- Mr. Holland will contact East Central and South Dearborn FFA about holding a monthly board meeting at or near the school.

Other

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 9:43 AM.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 8:30**, place to be announced.

Jessica Rayburn

Treasurer

Approved:
