



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

February 11, 2021
8:30 AM – Teleconference

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 – not present

SWCD Staff–

Jessica Rayburn
Vickie Riggs
Jennifer Hughes
Watershed – Heather Wirth

NRCS – Matt Jarvis

Extension – John Hawley

FFA – East Central – not present
South Dearborn – not present

ISDA – Mark Thomas

Tara Wesseler-Henry

The board meeting was called to order by Ken Gunkel, Chairman, at 8:31 AM.

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting, January 14, 2021, were reviewed, motion to approve was made by John Kruse, seconded by Mr. Pat Holland, motion carried.

Financial Report

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

Extension

- John Hawley gave an update on upcoming events. He said the Master Gardener program deadline is February 14, 2021 for the spring session. This program will take place during the day. He is planning an Ag Outlook event for March 9th. Attendance to the event will be hybrid with both in-person and virtual. There will be a limit on how many people can attend in person. He mentioned the current webinar series taking place, such as, livestock and gardening.

FFA

- Neither FFA was present. Roy Johnson from East Central did reach out and invited Supervisors, Associate Supervisors, and Staff to help judge the District 12 Leadership Contact March 6, 2021 at East Central School. If anyone is interested in helping judge, they need to contact Roy. Mr. Holland and Mark Thomas are both signed up to be judges. Mr. Holland had also been in contact with Roy about holding a monthly SWCD board meeting at the FFA greenhouse but unfortunately with COVID restriction in place they are not allowed to do so this school year.

ISDA



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- Mark Thomas and Tara Wessler-Henry both gave updates. Mark will help assist Matt Jarvis with the Spring Transect in Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Counties. He has been attending trainings and webinars to get ready for spring activities. Tara has been busy with CWI grants. She was very pleased with Vickie Riggs CWI final report and asked about using it as an example in the future. Jennifer Hughes asked Tara about the next CWI Grant and if a current business plan is required. Tara said grant requirements will be mostly the same as in the past, up to date records, in good standing with the State, and a current business plan are a few of the requirements. She said the DSS, District Support Specialist, team is working with the IASWCD to hold evening virtual trainings.

NRCS

- Matt Jarvis is working on finishing up field visits. Vickie has been working on the maps for EQIP. He said CRP general sign up has been extended. He informed everyone there is an Archeological research group protecting a site East of Hollywood Casino. The group will be doing a dig at the site and actively working there this summer. They would like to have cover on the site to help with erosion and to add a CRP Pollinator Plot. He updated the direct hire soil con position has been placed on hold for now, with hopes to fill it in the 3rd quarter.

Old Business

- Staff Evaluations-Ken and John have reviewed the most recent evaluation Jessica Rayburn found. Ken, also, reached out to Tara for input and found that the State currently doesn't have any set guidelines but are working on putting some in place. Ken plans to email the other Supervisors in the next week with his updates and asking for feedback. Once all Supervisors have had a chance to look over the evaluations and updates made then Ken will email to Staff. He hopes to have this done in the next month.

New Business

- Senate Bill Update- Currently Senate Bill 389, to remove all state wetland protections, has passed and moved to the State House. Ken reached to Jeff Raatz and John reached out to Jean Leising to voice being against the Bill 389 and the effect removing it would have. Jennifer stated that during a webinar it was stated that if this Bill passes it would there would be a great loss of needed wetlands.
- Reimbursement for Programs- Annie's Project – Jennifer said that the Annie's Project is a six-week program sponsored by Purdue. It was proposed that the district reimburse 50% of the registration fee for anyone female landowner in Dearborn County that completes the program. A motion to reimburse 50% of the registration fees for Annie's Project for three Dearborn County residents during 2021 with the requirement that upon completion a report will be given at a board meeting within six months was made by John Kruse, seconded by Mr. Holland, 1st amendment to add a cap of \$300 and remove three person limit, made by John Kruse, seconded by Mr. Holland, discussion on



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amendment, 1st amendment passed. There was more discussion about the motion. A 2nd amendment to strike out \$300.00 and insert \$325.00 was made by John Kruse, seconded by Mr. Holland, little discussion, 2nd amendment passed. The main motion amended was rediscussed, and motion as amended passed. A roll call for the main motion amended was taken – Eric, Yes; Mr. Holland, Yes; John, Yes; Ken, Yes.

Staff Reports

- Vickie Riggs sent her report. She did 8 conservation plans for EQIP, six for Dearborn County and two for Ohio County. She sent the Annual Meeting information to Sue Hayden. Sue shared with all county employees. Her linkpass card is expiring soon and it was required that she get a name change. She was given a temp login and will be getting her new card February 24th. She is continuing to work on EQIP.
- Heather Wirth sent her report. She is working on planning upcoming webinars. She received the closeout letter for the Whitewater Watershed Grant and the Grant is now completed and closed.
- Jennifer sent her report. She is attending the LTAP Stormwater Virtual Conference. She said there is a lot of information being provided during the conference. She is going to apply for a grant from SICIM for the Cisma group, D.I.R.T. The grant is due February 26th and her and Ken will attend the commissioner meeting on February 16th to get approval from the county to apply. She is planning a Weed Wrangle on April 10th from 9-12 at the Bright Meadows Park. A motion to apply for the SICIM grant was made by John Kruse, seconded Mr. Holland, carried. Roll call for motion – Eric, Yes; Mr. Holland, Yes; John, Yes; Ken, Yes.
- Jessica Rayburn sent her report. She said all Supervisor Per Diem should have been paid. Ken verified that he has received his payment.

Supervisor Updates/Comments

- John asked Vickie about the award she present to Don Duncan. This award was the first one Don had received in career. He was very honored Vickie said.

Adjourn -Meeting was adjourned at 10:20 AM.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, March 11, 2021 at 5:30**, at Dearborn County Purdue Extension.

Jessica Rayburn
Treasurer

Approved:



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