



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

April 8, 2021

8:30 AM – Saint John Lutheran Church Hubbell's

Supervisor

Ken Gunkel - Chairman
Eric Callahan – Vice Chair – not present
Pat Holland
John Kruse
Rocky (Robert) Schroeder

Associate Supervisors

Brad Dawson – not present
Tom Klump

SWCD Staff–

Jessica Rayburn
Vickie Riggs – via phone
Jennifer Hughes
Watershed – Heather Wirth
NRCS – Matt Jarvis

Extension – John Hawley

FFA – East Central – not present

South Dearborn – not present

ISDA – Tara Wesseler-Henry – via phone

The board meeting was called to order by Ken Gunkel, Chairman, at 8:36 AM.

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting, March 11, 2021, were reviewed, motion to approve was made by John Kruse, seconded by Pat Holland, motion carried.

Minutes from the Annual Meeting, March 11, 2021, were reviewed, motion to approve was made by Pat, seconded by Rocky, motion carried.

Financial Report

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

Extension

- John Hawley gave an update on current events going on and coming up. He has three sessions left for both the Gardening and Animal Science lunch and learn series. He reported that currently there are 17 participants signed up for the SWCD Pond Clinic that is in partnership with Dearborn County Extension. The Dearborn County 4-H will be happening in person this year. He said meetings can be held at the Extension building. He said the Master Gardener program is still taking place through the end of May. Since 2018 he has had 50-60 people complete the Master Gardener program. He plans to hold another one next fall. He will be hosting a Cicada workshop on May 1st starting at 10:00 AM at Casey's Outdoor Solutions.



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FFA

- Neither FFA was present. Pat was a judge at the District 12 Leadership Contest on March 6, 2021. He said the kids were very motivated. He said the contest went very well.

ISDA

- Tara Wesseler-Henry said the CWI (Clean Water Indiana) grant recipients will be announced during the State Soil Board Meeting in May. She said tillage transects are being submitted and thanks to everyone for getting them done. She said the AFR (Annual Financial Reports) have been submitted. She mentioned that Regional Meetings are in the works for June. Those will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays to provide updates and highlight projects. The meetings will be recorded. Virtual trainings are in the works for August – October on Tuesday evenings. A SBOA (State Board of Accounts) training is scheduled for December. Tara was asked if she had an update on the Wetland Bill. She did not but Matt Jarvis said he had received an email that an amendment to the bill was passed and sent back to the Senate.

NRCS

- Matt Jarvis completed the Cover Crop Transects for Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Counties. Mark Thomas did help him with getting the transects completed. He did mention that he saw more fields with cover crops than usual. He said the Dearborn County Highway Department mowed the Pollinator Plot at the office. He mentioned it has a few areas that need reseeded. A motion to spend up to \$100.00 on seeds for the office Pollinator Plot was made by John, seconded by Pat, motion carried. Matt is working on getting a desk for the NRCS Direct New Hire.

Old Business

- Business Plan- Ken Gunkel mentioned the Business Plan needs to be updated. This will be done at Dearborn County Purdue Extension office, date to be determined. John Hawley is checking dates that are available.

New Business

- Chair, Vice-Chair, and Treasurer/Secretary -A motion to appoint Ken as Chairman, Eric as Vice-Chairman, and Jessica Rayburn as Secretary/Treasurer was made by John, seconded Mr. Holland, motion carried.
- Fall Conference- Jessica handed out a paper on the IDEA (Indiana District Employee Association) fall conference. The conference will take place October 5-7, 2021 in Muncie Indiana. Jessica does plan on attending. Tara gave a quick overview of IDEA.



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- New Supervisor Swearing-in – At the beginning of the meeting Pat swore in Robert Schroeder as the Elected Supervisors for a 3-year term.
- Grazing Conference- Matt would like to hold a SE Indiana Regional Grazing Conference. He would like to partner with surrounding counties and hopefully get a large turnout like the one in the Southwest. He would like to bring in speakers, serve a lunch, and allow partners and others to set up displays. He thinks a Saturday half day or a little longer would be the best time to hold this event.

Staff Reports

- Vickie Riggs sent her report. She plans to hold the following field days this year: Pond Clinic, Grazing Field Day, Pollinator Field Day, and Hemp Workshop. She has been busy with landowners renting the equipment and dropping off soil samples.
- Heather Wirth sent her report. She is helping Franklin County with their Tree Giveaway on April 30th. She sent out a post event survey for the Franklin County Tillage Breakfast and was surprised to find that most liked the event being virtual and would like to see it continue to be offered virtually.
- Jennifer sent her report. She will be conducting an AEP site visit on Thursday, April 15th. There is currently no Stormwater Specialist. She said Dearborn County was not selected for the Spring CISMA grant but she will reapply in the Fall. She mentioned the native plant sale is currently taking place with orders due May 3rd. She has a Weed Wrangle scheduled for Saturday, April 10th at Bright Meadows Park. She has the Backyard sessions planned to take place May-October.
- Jessica Rayburn sent her report. She passed out a Cicada Factsheet paper. The Dearborn County 4-H sent a sponsorship letter and she presented it. A motion to sponsor the Soil & Water Award for \$20.00 was made by Rocky, seconded John, motion carried. She handed out the AAA plan sheet. She will check into seeing if they offer a different plan for organizations with multiple drivers. She was asked by Ken to see if district money could be invested. The money can be invested in CD's only and she will get three quotes from area banks. When completing the AFR audit, Ken and Tom asked her to check into the guidelines for clearing a check. She reported that a stop payment would need to be completed and documentation would need to be noted for SBOA. She will contact Friendship State Bank to have stop payment on check 8021 dated 06/10/2019 made out to The Office Shop. She gave an update on the County Commissioners meeting she and Ken attended. The Commissioners suggested to see if Tim Greive, Dearborn County Highway Department, would allow the District to park the truck there since they have cameras. The Commissioners also said that if a district employee would want to take the truck home overnight, they could, it just couldn't be used for personal use.

Supervisor Updates/Comments

- Rocky suggested that a table be set up at the local Farmers Markets. He said he would be happy to sit at the table and pass out program information.



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Other

- It was mentioned that Ag Day will be held September 14th and 15th with the 16th being a backup day.
- Jessica and Rocky plan to attend the May 4th County Commissioners meeting.

Adjourn -Meeting was adjourned at 10:37 AM.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 8:30**, at TBA.

Jessica Rayburn
Treasurer

Approved:

