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**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**

August 19, 2021

8:30 AM – Purdue Extension Dearborn County

### Supervisor

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

### Associate Supervisors

Brad Dawson – not present  
Tom Klump – not present

### Earth Team Volunteers

Madison Jarvis  
Michelle Jarvis

### SWCD Staff

Jessica Rayburn  
Vickie Riggs  
Jennifer Hughes  
Watershed – Heather Wirth  
NRCS - Matt Jarvis  
Alejandra González-López  
Extension – not present  
FFA – East Central – Bradley Kolb  
South Dearborn – not present  
ISDA – Mark Thomas – via phone

The board meeting was called to order by Ken Gunkel, Chair, at 8:37 AM.

### *Minutes*

Minutes from the previous meeting, July 14, 2021, were reviewed, motion to approve was made by John Kruse, seconded by Robert Schroeder, motion carried.

### *Financial Report*

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

### *Extension*

- John Hawley was not present.

### *FFA*

- Bradley Kolb, East Central (EC) FFA, said they will be hosting an open house in hopes of gaining more FFA members. He said they have their first practice for soil and livestock skillathon cdes coming up next week. He said the 2022 Calendar Sponsorship is currently underway. Jessica Rayburn passed out the letter from Roy with the calendar information. A motion to sponsor a \$100 ad space for the 2022 EC FFA Calendar was made by John, seconded by Pat, motion carried. Ken asked Bradley to discuss with Roy the possibility of a SWCD board meeting being held at the EC FFA greenhouse. Roy had



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previously reached out asking if any native plant grants were available. Jennifer Hughes sent him information on a grant the Indiana Native Plant Society is offering.

### *ISDA*

- Mark Thomas called in. He said he has been busy with the CREP watersheds. He said he has also been helping with watershed work in surrounding counties. He said some landowners are waiting for rain to be able to install practices. He is also keeping in contact with other districts.

### *NRCS*

- Matt Jarvis is still working on EQIP. He is sending reminder letters about practices needing to be completed. He is working on status farm compliance reviews and making sure landowners are aware of what needs to be completed. He will be conducting more field visits for the fall EQIP applications. He gave an update on the USDA Policy changes.
- Alejandra González-López is continuing to attend trainings. She does have access to the computer.

### *Old Business*

- Shed Update – Jessica and Tom Klump met Friday, July 15<sup>th</sup> to look at the shed door and see what was needed. It was decided to get a doorknob, hasp, and padlock. They went to Lowes and purchased the needed items. Jessica left the items with Tom and he installed them. A few items that were stolen have since been replaced. Jessica will replace the other items as needed.
- Rental Agreement Update – The rental agreement was updated with the late fee charges and information. The Board received a copy of the updated agreement via email. Jessica reached out to Tara to review the agreement. Once the okay was given, the agreement was sent to the printer and will be picked up after the board meeting.

### *New Business*

- River Clean Up – Living Lands & Waters reached out to Jessica about the SWCD office volunteering for a River Clean Up. Jessica, John Hawley, and Earth Team Volunteers: Madison Jarvis, Michelle Jarvis, Ethan Jarvis, and Jaden Jarvis went out Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> and helped clean up the Ohio River riverbank. Jessica said it was a very education experience. She said if anyone gets the chance to volunteer with Living Lands & Waters they should. She said Living Lands & Waters is holding a Community Clean Up Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup> and still have a few spots available. She was waiting on the stats from the day to be sent over. Once she gets the total numbers of trash picked up, she plans to write up something for the monthly e-newsletter. She also said Living Lands &



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Waters gives away trees and thought it might be a good place to contact for the tree giveaway Ken mentioned at a previous board meeting.

- Locally Led (9:00 AM) – Matt explained why the locally led resource concerns meeting was important. He passed out the ranking sheets and explained the process for ranking the resource concerns and how the ranking sheet is used.
- Budget Hearing Update- Jessica and Ken attended the budget hearing. Jessica said the hearing went well and Council was happy with what SWCD has been doing. Ken addressed moving the district vehicles and equipment. Ken said Council mentioned moving the vehicles and equipment to a fenced in area at the Highway Department. He said a key would be provided if it was decided in the future to move the vehicles and equipment but right now it is not mandatory.

### *Staff Reports*

- Vickie Riggs sent her report. She attended the River Friendly Farmer Awards program at the Indiana State Fair. She said the Pollinator Field Day went very well. She said she had a lot of positive feedback on the survey.
- Heather Wirth sent her report. She said she met the new District Coordinator for Franklin County SWCD.
- Jennifer Hughes sent her report. She was hoping to plan another Weed Wrangle for October but with the rise of COVID and not know what the county status will be then she asked for input from the Board. The Board agreed that it would be best to postpone the fall Weed Wrangle and instead try to host a virtual learning or update meeting.
- Jessica Rayburn sent her report.

### *Supervisor Updates/Comments*

- Robert said the Pollinator Field Day went well. He said he attended the SICMA conference at Union Co. He said they are working on developing a park and it was a very informative conference.
- Pat said the field day was very nice. He said Carnegie Hall in Moores Hill will be offering tours on Sundays.
- John said he attended a soil field day that was very informative.
- Ken asked Heather about the Tree Giveaway and would like her to report back. He mentioned an email Jennifer sent out with websites for different educational articles. He was impressed with the link for Purdue. He asked John about the solar updates. It was mentioned the county has passed an ordinance. He said an appeal has been filed against Rumpke for landfill expansion in Ohio.

### *Other*

- Commissioner's Meeting – Jessica and Matt plan to attend the September 21<sup>st</sup> evening meeting.



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*Adjourn* - Meeting was adjourned at 10:23 AM.

The next meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 8:30 AM location TBD.**

*Jessica Rayburn*  
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved:

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