



Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

**MINUTES OF THE DEARBORN COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOARD MEETING OF FEBRUARY 13, 2014**

SUPERVISORS PRESENT

John Kruse, Chair
Brad Dawson
Terry Hall
Randy Ickenroth
Marshall Alford

GUEST

David Todd

WATERSHED STAFF

Heather Wirth
Chelsea Tooley

SWCD STAFF

Rita Cutter
Jennifer Hughes
Vickie Smith

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Chair John Kruse at the Soil and Water Conservation office. Minutes were approved on a motion by Brad Dawson, seconded by Randy Ickenroth and carried. The financial report was approved on a motion by Terry Hall, seconded by Marshall Alford and carried. The 2014 county appropriations should be coming soon. Brad Dawson asked for a breakdown of funds at the next meeting. Chelsea Tooley, Whitewater River Watershed Outreach Coordinator, was introduced. Heather Wirth will be the Technical Coordinator for the project. Chairman appointed an audit committee of Marshall Alford and Terry Hall. Terry had to leave early so Brad Dawson agreed to help do the audit.

Annual Meeting – The annual meeting will be March 13th, 2014 at the Dearborn Adult Center at 6:30 p.m. with Rolling Pin Catering. Tickets are available for sale at \$6 each. Complimentary tickets will be given to Commissioners, Council, State Legislators, Backyard Conservation participants (4), S. Dearborn Sewer District (4) and 4-H Soil & Water project winner (3). Rita Cutter will check if an FFA team competed at the State Contest.

OKI-RCC – The summer tour will be in Dearborn County this year. It will be held in late August or early September. Possible stops may be Salatin's high tunnels, Halls American Farm Products and HVL site with lunch at Willies. Other suggestions were Meinders farm, Ertel Winery and Wilhelm Lumber. It was suggested to maybe do a legislative tour of these sites prior to the OKI tour for county commissioners and council members. Details will need to be worked out. MailChimp was suggested as a way to invite participation and send out newsletter type items. The OKI-RCC Annual Meeting will be March 28th in Milford, Ohio at the Cincinnati Nature Center. There is a \$20 registration fee. Someone from Indiana will speak on the Whitewater River Watershed project.

Tech/Educator Report – Vickie Smith sent her report. After reviewing a new repair quote on the Brillion Seeder, it was decided to purchase a new Seeder from Miller Equipment with a pressure relief valve and trade in the old one on a motion by Marshall Alford and seconded by Terry Hall. Motion carried. Vickie reported on several upcoming training and meetings. The Water Quality Trading project will be featured at a media event at the Cincinnati Weston Downtown on March 11th. All participating farmers and the SWCDs are invited to attend. A Pond Clinic will be held May 17th at the Gladys Russell Park with

assistance from the Dearborn and Ohio Co Extensions. She has possibly 6-7 new EQIP applicants. With approval of a Farm Bill, changes are being made and deadlines are pushed back. There is \$2500 left for Soil Testing this year. The Dearborn SWCD will purchase a new American flag for the office on a motion by Brad Dawson, seconded by Marshall Alford. Motion carried.

Extension Report – Mike Hornbach was at the National Farm Machinery Show.

FFA – Brad Dawson reported that they were doing officer interviews. The FFA Alumni will be meeting next Thursday, Feb. 20th at 7:00 pm in the Ag Dept at East Central High School. All interested persons are invited to attend. There is a \$20 membership fee.

Rule 5/13 – Jennifer Hughes sent her report. IDEM's Dan Perez will be in the county on Feb 25th. BYC – HVL is purchasing 11 rain barrels and the district will purchase additional barrels on resale on a motion by Brad Dawson, seconded by Randy Ickenroth and carried. The Native Plant sale along with the Rain Barrels and Composters will be in May. Native plants will sell for \$2.25 plus tax on a motion by Terry Hall, seconded by Marshall Alford and carried. The next comprehensive Plan meeting will be February 27th. They are now adding a Natural Resources section.

Hogan Creek Watershed – Heather Wirth sent her report. There will be a Grazing Field Day on August 22nd at Meinders farm with assistance from Dearborn and Ripley SWCDs.

Whitewater River Watershed Grant – Heather Wirth reviewed the Water Testing quote from Environmental Labs for the 4 Ohio sites. Budget only has \$9000 for monitoring. Macro Study could be done locally using RiverWatch standards. The S. Dearborn Sewer District can run tests for about \$183.04/month. Until the QAPP is completed and approved testing cannot be paid for by the grant. After discussion, Brad Dawson made a motion for the SWCD to continue to cover the costs of water testing. This was seconded by Terry Hall and carried. They had their first WWR Steering Committee on Feb. 12th with 10 in attendance. No one was there from Harrison. Public meetings are scheduled for Friday, Feb. 21st at 1:00 p.m. at the Harrison Library and at 6:00 p.m. at the Franklin Co Government Center, Brookville. Chelsea Tooley discussed that she has no internet usage and no printer access here at the Aurora Field Office. There is no Hot Spot in the building and she would need NRCS paperwork completed and approved to see if there are any seats available for internet. NRCS would need to approve any new wiring. Another option is to work from the HHH office for rent of \$100/month with usage of internet and printers. Brad Dawson has discussed this with Terry Stephenson and he is ok with this. On a motion by Brad Dawson, seconded by Randy Ickenroth and carried, Chelsea will work from HHH on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the Whitewater River Grant. Holidays for part time for 20 hours per week will be 4 hours and compt time accumulation is up to 20 hours and none carried over after Dec. 31st. Use of County vehicles was discussed and Heather can continue to use the county vehicles, but Chelsea will not be able to. Mileage will be covered by the grant. Heather (thru Hogan Watershed Grant) and Chelsea (thru Indian Creek Grant) will be attending Leadership Academy trainings March 26-27th.

NRCS – Shasta Woodard was not present but Rita distributed her report.

Administrative Issues – Rita Cutter sent her report. Ag Days for 3rd graders will be April 22 and 23. Rita asked if the District would like to continue giving seed packets at Ag Days. It was agreed to continue. Monthly office Activity Report was distributed with 131 contacts in January. Dearborn County government is working on a new county website and hopes to have it fully operational by August. The SWCD will have our own section and we will do the updates.

The following vouchers were approved for payment on a motion by Marshall Alford, seconded by Randy Ickenroth, and carried.

Jennifer Hughes (Mileage) \$58.08
Vickie Smith (Mileage) \$86.68
Heather Wirth (HC \$439.04 & WWR \$30.24 Mileage) \$469.28
HHH RC&D (HC Sponsorship for No Till Breakfast) \$50
Ripley Co SWCD (Annual Meeting Reservation) \$10
IDEA (2014 Dues) \$60.00
Madison Co Council of Governments (MS4 Annual Meeting Reservation) \$65
Ripley Co CES Fund (Farm Business Sessions Reg) \$10
NACD (Stewardship Materials) \$39.20
US Postal Service (WWR Mailing and Stamps) \$193.80
The Office Shop (February Color Copier Usage)
DC Sheriff's Dept (February Fuel Usage)
Cardinal Office Products (Supplies)
CWI Cost Share (4)
Hogan Creek Cost Share
HHH RC&D (Whitewater River Watershed Payroll)
Register Publications (Legal Notice)
Weisenbach Specialty (Seed Packets for Ag Day)
OKI-RCC (Annual Meeting Reservations)
IASWCD (Supervisor/Staff Training)
S Dearborn Sewer District (WWR Water Testing)
Miller Equipment (Brillion Seeder minus Trade In)
Tree Seedlings (up to \$500)
Dearborn Savings Bank (Transfer to Savings)

Additional Comments – Heather Wirth asked the Board about a tree giveaway for Arbor Day this year. Brad Dawson made a motion to spend up to \$500 on trees. This was seconded by Terry Hall and carried. Chelsea Tooley said she is getting ArcGIS for the Watershed grants at a reduced price of \$100 through HHH and asked if the WWR Watershed Grant could go half with Indian Creek Grant on this. The board agreed it could be paid through the grant.

The next meeting will be March 13 following the annual meeting at approximately 8:30-9:00 pm. The meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m. followed by executive session with staff. Financial audit followed the executive meeting.

Rita Cutter

Secretary

Approved by:

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