



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

May 13, 2021

8:30 AM – Dearborn Co Purdue Extension

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

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 – via phone

The board meeting was called to order by Ken Gunkel, Chairman, at 8:30 AM.

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting, April 8, 2021, were reviewed, motion to approve was made by John Kruse, seconded by Robert Schroeder, motion carried.

Financial Report

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

Extension

- John Hawley said there will be a milk and dairy giveaway on May 29, 2021 from 9-12 at the Dillsboro Family Market. The giveaway will allow a person to pick any two of the following: 2% milk, chocolate milk, yogurt, cottage cheese, or spreadable cream cheese. He reported that 25,000 gallons of milk were given away during the previous giveaways. He said the Flower Show will take place on Wednesday, June 23rd, during the Dearborn County Fair.

FFA

- Neither FFA was present. Mark Thomas did give an update for FFA. He said the District 12 Leadership Contest on March 6, 2021 went well. He said the FFA State Convention will take place with limited in-person attendance. He mentioned the district interviews have wrapped up and approval for the district team will be approved in June.



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ISDA

- Mark Thomas said he has been working on CREP status reviews. He has been conducting waterway visits and reviewing addition watersheds due to a retiree.

NRCS

- Matt Jarvis is still working on EQIP. He submitted 52 applications with 16 getting funded. He mentioned there will be an upcoming Regional meeting with the Association. He said a person has been hired for the Dearborn, Ohio, and Switzerland Co Soil Con position and the person is scheduled to start July 6th.

Old Business

- Farmers Market – Robert said he will set up at the following Farmers Markets:
 - Bright – Friday, May 28th
 - Dillsboro – Saturday, May 29th
 - Lawrenceburg – Saturday, June 5th, July 17th, Aug. 7th, Oct. 9th.He does plans to go back to Bright and Dillsboro with those dates' TBD.
- Business Plan- The Business Plan was updated on April 29th. A motion to approve the 2021-2024 Business Plan was made by John, seconded by Pat, motion carried.

New Business

- Field Work: The Magical Line Dividing Line Between Counties (Cover Crops) – An article was emailed to staff and supervisors prior to the board meeting. The article talked about why some counties have more acres planted in cover crops and why some have very few acres planted in cover crops. Matt mentioned it would be helpful to explore ways to maybe reach those that do not plant cover crops, in hopes to increase cover crops in Dearborn County.
- Earth Team Volunteers (Thank You) – Matt informed Jessica Rayburn when it was Volunteer Appreciation Week. Jessica hand wrote thank you cards to each of the Earth Team Volunteers.
- Oxbow/Rumpke- Jessica and Jennifer Hughes were both cc'd on letters Oxbow sent to Rumpke about the landfill on Bond Road in Ohio. It was discussed how to best handle this and the Board feels that Jessica and Jennifer's names should be removed, and it should be listed as Dearborn County Soil and Water without any names attached. Jessica will reach out to Oxbow about having this change made. The Board is interested in keeping updated on what is going on, as the waste could cross back into Indiana, depending on the construction Rumpke installs.



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Staff Reports

- Vickie Riggs sent her report. She said the Brillion had to be picked up from a landowner and taken to Zimmer Tractor to be fixed. Zimmer Tractor sent an invoice, but it was not a detailed invoice. Jessica called to get a copy of the detailed invoice. Vickie said the two River Friendly Farmers nominees for Dearborn County are Clay Cutter and Jeffries Farms. Information on Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds was passed around and she said that currently it is an EQIP program, but Dearborn County is not included in the program. She said IDNR is asking for assistance, in-kind, if the program did come to Dearborn County. She said she will be having a Pollinator Field Day on August 14th. She will be having boxed lunches, ordering 200 mixed seed packets from Round Stone, renting tents and chairs, renting a portalet, and mailing the flyer to the mailing list. She signed 16 conservations plans, 12 of those on behalf of the Board. She asked Jessica to order another tablecloth.
- Heather Wirth sent her report. She assisted Franklin County with their Tree Giveaway/Food Drive and they gave away approximately 700 trees and collected a room full of canned food to donate to the food pantry. Ken asked her about holding something similar in Dearborn County. She said Dearborn County has had a tree giveaway in the past and gave him information about those. Ken asked Pat to please reach out to the FFA to see if they would be willing to help with a tree giveaway/food drive. She said there is a cleanup for Whitewater River scheduled Saturday, May 15th and it is in partner with Trout Unlimited.
- Jennifer Hughes sent her report. She said she listened to a webinar about the Stormwater construction changes and updates. She said Hidden Valley Lake had their MS4 audit and she will be assisting them with the updates needed. She said IDEM management is pushing to let counties know soon, hopefully before July, on the MS4 so they have time to get things in order before the new general permit is implemented. She said IDEM has hired a Stormwater Specialist, Missy Shaber, for the area. She updated that the Weed Wrangle went well and that about 40 people attended and she plans to have another one in the fall. She was pleased with how well the Native Plant Sale went this year. She sold 695 plants and made a profit of \$511.20 for the Backyard Program and Cost-Share. She said Planning and Zoning is holding a meeting Monday to review the zoning residential and agriculture changes/updates.
- Jessica Rayburn sent her report. She reached out to AAA and found that for a company plan it just provides individual coverage for each person with the company being billed. It was decided to not go that route at this time. She passed out a spreadsheet on CD rates and after looking at the rates the Board decided to not pursue investing at this time.

Supervisor Updates/Comments

- Robert commented on going to the May Commissioners meeting and that it went very well. Jessica and Robert both presented information and had no questions from the Commissioners.



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- John said he was approached from an individual company about using his land for solar panels. He said the company is looking at cleared land within a one-mile radius of the substation. Currently Dearborn County does not have any regulations for the solar farm companies, but they are looking into add regulations soon.

Other

- June 10th monthly board meeting – Ken, chair, will be out of town and will reach out to see if Eric, vice-chair, is available to cover. Ken will let staff and supervisors know if we will have a June meeting or if it will be canceled. The July monthly board meeting will be moved to Wednesday, July 14th at Dearborn County Purdue Extension.
- The next Commissioners meeting SWCD is scheduled to attend is July 6th. Ken said he will attend. Jennifer said she would attend in Jessica's place. John said he will also try to attend.

Adjourn -Meeting was adjourned at 10:45 AM.

The next meeting will be held on TBA.

Jessica Rayburn
Treasurer

Approved:

Corey Colburn
~~_____~~

Robert Stevada
~~_____~~

John Luce

