



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
October 21, 2021
8:30 AM – Purdue Extension Dearborn County

Supervisor

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

Associate Supervisors

Brad Dawson – not present
Tom Klump

SWCD Staff

Jessica Rayburn
Vickie Riggs
Jennifer Hughes
Watershed – Heather Wirth

NRCS - Matt Jarvis

Alejandra González-López

Extension – John Hawley

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

The board meeting was called to order by Ken Gunkel, Chair, at 8:42 AM.

Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting, September 9, 2021, were reviewed, motion to approve was made by Pat Holland, seconded by Robert Schroeder, motion carried.

Financial Report

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

Extension

- John Hawley passed out upcoming event flyers. He said a Lunch n' Learn webinar series will held 12:00 pm – 1 pm on November 4th, November 18th, December 2nd, January 13th, January 27th, February 10th, and February 24th. He invited everyone to the Annual Meeting on November 6th at 5:30 PM at Agner Hall. The Annual Meeting will be held in combination with the Dearborn County 4-H awards program. He said March 3-4 the Annual Indiana Small Farm Conference will take place at the Hendricks Co Fairground.

FFA

- Not present

ISDA

- Not present

NRCS

- Matt Jarvis shared the directory book that is placed in the Register newspaper had SWCD listed under the government contacts. He said Ag Day went well and passed



Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

around pictures. He said he had his review with Ben and Ben was very happy with how the office is operating.

- Matt passed out the Locally Led results.

Old Business

- OKI-RCC Tour – Jessica Rayburn attended the OKI-RCC Tour. She said it was very interesting. She said the day started at the NKU Research & Education Field Station and St. Anne Wetlands. The next stop was at Casson and Ahrman Farms. The landowner talked about his cattle farm and getting involved in the freezer beef program. She then went to Seven Wells Vineyard & Winery where lunch was held. She said it was a very pretty area. She said the last stop was the Newport Aquarium. There the keynote speaker, Dave Brandt, spoke about cover crops and his farming practices. After the keynote speaker a tour of the Newport Aquarium was offered.
- Recommendation for Supervisor – A motion to appoint Ken Gunkel was made by Robert, seconded by Pat, motion carried.
- Indiana Woodland Steward Donation Update – Jessica and Ken reached out to Don McGuckin asking what levels of sponsorships were offered and why they were asking for an increase in the SWCD donation amount. They found the levels of sponsorship started at \$19.00, with \$50.00 being the top level. Ken inquired about the current distribution list, but Don was unable to provide the list due to privacy. A motion to donate \$250.00 to Indiana Woodland Steward was made by Pat, seconded by Robert, motion carried.

New Business

- Employee Evaluations – Ken passed out the past evaluation forms used. He asked anyone who had comments or changes to send them to him by Friday, October 29. Ken would like to have a meeting with Jim Thatcher and Liz Morris.
- NRCS EQIP Update- The deadline for the EQIP has been set for December 17th. Matt will be scheduling field visits.
- IASWCD Annual Conference – Jessica passed out registration information. She said early bird registration is open and will close November 15th. Ken and Pat both said they would like to attend. Jessica will send a reminder email before early bird registration closes to see if anyone else would like to attend.
- NACD – Jessica included a copy of the NACD dues in the board packets. A motion to pay the \$775 membership fee was made by Pat, seconded by Robert, motion carried.
- Invasive Removal and Replacement Program – Matt mentioned allowing some of the CWI money to be allocated for an invasive program. Jennifer said the framework for the program isn't complete yet but will work on having it ready for the next board meeting. The program would hopefully work with D.I.R.T to help landowners identify invasive species, remove them, and replace them with native plants. A motion to allocation \$5,000.00 to an invasive removal and replacement program was made by Pat, seconded by Robert, motion carried.



Dearborn County Soil and Water Conservation District

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

Staff Reports

- Vickie Riggs sent her report. She said a landowner that rented the drill looked over the issue with it still allowing seed to fall when lifting and turning at the end of the rows. He was able to fix some of the bent parts and calibrate the drill. Since he took the time to work on the drill a discount on his rental agreement was given. Vickie had Zimmer look at the drill previously, but they were unable to figure out the problem. Vickie gave an update on past due rental fees.
- Heather Wirth sent her report. She is contacting landowners to finish up their practices for the Hogan Watershed grant.
- Jennifer Hughes sent her report. She said she went on a pre-construction visit meeting Wednesday, October 20th. She will be at Hidden Valley Lake Friday, October 22 for the Sliver Jackets stream erosion issue. She will be attending the MS4 Annual meeting October 26th and hopes to get more information on the new rules that will be coming out. She said the Aurora City Pool was approved by Planning and Zoning. She will be hosting a zoom for D.I.R.T on November 19th.
- Jessica Rayburn sent her report. She provided everyone with a copy of the office directory list. She asked everyone to sign a thank you card for Randy Turner for helping with Living Lands & Waters potable water need.

Supervisor Updates/Comments

- No comments given.

Other

- Commissioner's Meeting – SWCD will attend the November 2nd meeting.
- Annual Plan of Work meeting will take place December 1st at 9:30 AM at Purdue Extension Dearborn County.

Adjourn -Meeting was adjourned at 11:01 AM.

The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 8:30 AM at Purdue Extension Dearborn Co.**

Jessica Rayburn
Secretary/Treasurer

Approved:







