

MINUTES  
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting  
Tuesday, August 20, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairperson Shane Campbell. Those attending were Calvin Hartman, Michelle Gilbert, Greg Lake, Dave Duncan, Sarah Brichford, Paul Marcellino, and Rene' Weaver. Steve Byrum arrived later. Glenn Stephens and Jim Stites were absent.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday September 17, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. (This may change if harvest has begun)

Since Steve was not present. We skipped to the reports.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

PURDUE EXTENSION – Paul reported that Extension is completing year-end reports and that is taking up a great deal of their time.

COUNTY SURVEYOR – Dave Duncan discussed the wind turbine situation in Howard County and said that the SWCD/NRCS office may receive inquiries pertaining to wetland regulations and location of the proposed wind turbines. Our office will look into answers for these questions and prepare information if we do get individuals coming into the office. It appears there may be some resistance when it comes to the turbines and their placement.

COUNTY STORMWATER – Greg ask that an agenda be created for the W.E. He will invite the council and commissioners and would like to have time slots available for them to sign up to work. Sarah is going to work on this.

Butler Fairman should be rolling out the new Stormwater software to work on with the iPads the first week of September.

Sarah reported that inspections are going well. She has been working with Calvin. There has been a problem with the Packet A and she will be working on getting those sites to the construction status. One site has been officially closed out. This is the first one to happen here in the county.

She had a report of a manure spill. This is about the third time for this location. It was forwarded to IDEM and sent to enforcement.

Sampling on Kitty Run has been ongoing. There was E.Coli 0157 present along with several viruses. The Bio Assessment for Kokomo Creek is probably the worst. The sediment load is very large.

The best location has been Little Wildcat near West Middleton. Little Wildcat at Chippendale is good but shows little aquatic life.

She reported that DNR did a study in Clinton County and found several freshwater mussel species which is really good.

She will be doing Project Wet training for IUK in September and Stream Ecology for IMN in October.

FSA – Lisa asked about a project that needs some repair work out west. Greg reported that he has been in contact with the contractors and work should begin this week. Greg is not happy with the outcome of the project. There are items that need attention.

FSA is working on the re-enrolls. There are approximately 21 new sign-ups for 2013. DCP will run through September. The software is improving which has sped things up.

NRCS – Kerry is on annual leave and Evan had a meeting at the State Office. Rene' reported for NRCS. CRP re-enrolls are completed and work has started on new CRP requests. No 3<sup>rd</sup> round funding for EQIP. There are four new 1026 request and there is new RMS guidance on cover crop termination. Rene' had the information available to anyone who wanted to see it.

SWCD – Calvin reported that he has contacted all of the On-Farm Network participants and has the information loaded into the computer for this year. He has been working on MS4 inspections one day a week. There are several projects installed, waterway, straight pipes, heavy use pads, a pit closure, and stream crossing. There is a block chute that was installed several years ago that has failed. He has been working with NRCS engineers on a plan for making the repairs.

### **ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

RC&D – There is a meeting this afternoon. Michelle, Calvin, and Paul will attend. Everyone is invited to attend the August 30 Soil Health Day in West Lafayette at the Beck Center. The RC&D is having difficulty finding people to take leadership roles. Not sure what the future will bring when it comes to the RC&D.

The Wildcat Experience “W.E.” will be September 18 and 19. It doesn't look like we will be able to canoe. The water level is low and looks as if it is going to stay that way. We have been in contact with Taylor and are waiting on feedback from them. We have plans to meet with Eastern on Thursday morning. If we do stations only, we can handle two schools in one day which means we can also work Western and Northwestern in. We discussed the stations and Sarah wanted input from the group as to what stations we should have. Rene' mentioned that the stations have been satisfactory so why not keep the ones we have been using. Sarah suggested that for the land use station we might be able to have Commissioner Moore participate. She will work on an agenda and share it with Rene'. The wildlife along the wildcat with Rick Piercy is a good fit for the group. Maybe we can get IN American Water to do a waste water treatment session.

(Steve Byrum arrived so we can conduct district business).

Michelle made a motion to approve the minutes of the July meeting as presented, Shane seconded, motion carried and minutes were signed.

CWI – Rene' reported that the CWI grant that we share with Tipton County is in the final year. It is used to cost-share on planting cover crops. Tipton County board met on Monday and proposed to reduce the per acre rate to \$13.00 from \$16.75 since the balance of the grant is approximately \$8,500.00. They also propose to supplement the grant if needed by \$1,500 to \$2,000 per county if needed. Steve moved to approve the proposal set forth by Tipton County. Shane seconded, motion carried. Rene' will notify Anita of the board decision.

Rene' reported that the group working on the CWI grant for cover crop research met last week and would like to apply for a CWI grant to continue the research project. Michelle moved to apply for another CWI to continue the cover crop research. Steve seconded, motion carried.

Rene' presented a contract to have Adam Hartman continue to maintain our website for another year. Shane moved to continue the contract with Adam. Steve seconded, motion carried. Shane signed the contract and Adam will sign it tonight.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Rene' presented the claims for payment. There were additional request added. Special Event Policy for W.E. estimated no more than \$450. Hand seeders to be used for the CWI grant (funds will be from the grant), Sponsorship for the RC&D Soil Health Day on August 30, \$100. Shane moved to approve the claims presented and the additional request. Michelle seconded, motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Even though it is only August, we need to start planning the annual meeting. Ideas were bounced around for speakers, locations, and type of meeting. All agreed that they liked the relaxed atmosphere of the 2012 meeting. If there was some way we could make the business portion of the meeting less dry that would be a big asset. After much talk, Rene' is to try and contact Fred Whitford from Purdue and see what dates in February he is available. If he is not able to commit, she is to contact Mike Finkler of IUK. Once we get a speaker and date, we need to concentrate on a location. Rene' will also explore possibilities for a more exciting business meeting.

The forestry committee met prior to this meeting and it was decided that we will not have a tree sale in the spring of 2014. Due to a decrease in sales and scheduling conflicts (County schools spring break is the week we would have our sale and the following week is Easter.) we are going to lie out for a year and see about holding a sale every other year. Steve moved to accept the recommendation of the forestry committee and Michelle seconded, motion carried.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver \_\_\_\_\_

***WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.***

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\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_

**9/17/2013 an amendment was made to the August 2013 minutes. Calvin requested to attend the National No-Till Conference in January of 2014 with an estimated cost of \$1,000.00 Shane moved to allow Calvin's attendance, Steve seconded and motion carried.**