

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Tuesday, January 15, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Shane Campbell, Chairperson. Others attending were Michelle Gilbert, Kerry Smith, Steve Byrum, Calvin Hartman, Jim Stites, Sarah Brichford, Steve Christensen, Don Cree, and Rene' Weaver

Shane moved to approve the December minutes as written, Steve seconded, motion carried and minutes were signed.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

Shane reported that both resolutions passed during the business meeting. Funding for districts was discussed at length.

Michelle gave a report on the conference sessions that she attended. One of the issues she mentioned was the weather changes. This apparently is something that is being looked at very closely. She also was at the legislative breakfast but did not get an opportunity to talk with representative Karickhoff. She recommended that the district send a letter to him and thank him for his support of conservation and natural resources. Rene' will draft the letter and get it sent.

Calvin gave a report on the No-Till conference. Calvin also mentioned the weather session he attended. According to the information provided, we will see fewer rainfalls but the rainfalls that we do receive will be more intense so all the more reason for the promotion of cover crops. Reducing tillage is the key. Maintaining a cover year round and managing our soil health are becoming more and more crucial.

AGENCY REPORTS:

FSA- Lisa was not available

PURDUE EXTENSION – Paul was not available.

NRCS- Kerry reported that he has been processing payments for CSP. Round one for EQIP applications ends on January 18, 2013. The second round will be February 1, 2013. The fund allocation has been pushed back approximately 2 weeks. Since the extension of the farm bill, there is currently no Adjusted Gross Income From available and nobody will be eligible for payments until this form is ready. NRCS and FSA cannot work on CRP applications or re-enrolls however; those districts with available personnel are working on re-enrolls.

There are a couple of upcoming meetings to mention. Irrigation Workshop at the Tippecanoe County fairgrounds on January 22. Soil Health at Tipton County fairgrounds on February 5. Kerry discussed having a cover crop field day at Glenn's place where the cover crops plots were planted fall. Shane moved to plan the over crop field day event for Thursday, Marc 21. Michelle seconded, motion carried. It will be a ½ day event beginning in the morning, 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Staff will work on the plans. Kerry also recommended we include Tipton County producers. All agreed this was a good idea.

COUNTY STORMWATER – Sarah reported that there are six areas to the MS4. Education and participation from community is one area. The annual meeting is one way for them to have participation from the community. Ag Day is another avenue for education. Earth Day may have some changes coming. We are waiting to see what happens. Sarah completed the testing of all outfalls for illicit discharge. She determined about 50/50 flow/no flow and approximately 36% will meet the criteria for illicit discharge. Some housekeeping items they are working on is the jail parking lot and installing a bio swale at the highway garage.

Steve reported that the Darrough Chapel project there are approximately 111 homes that need hooked into the new sewer system. There are five lines and the south part is ready. Many of the residents are reluctant to commit to tying into the system. The grant from the state requires that 80% of the residents need to be on board by April or there is a possibility of losing the funding. The north side is waiting for the interceptor. This process has been slower than anticipated. For the residents to tie in and destroy their current septic tank the cost is estimated at \$3,000 to \$5,000. Then there will be a \$45 per month sewer fee.

CITY STORMWATER – The yard waste site is headed for a cleanup and there are areas that may be unsuitable to use due to contaminants found on the site. The Senior Citizen Tower on Washington Street has been having sediment and erosion problems. Sarah reported the problem to Don. Inspection reports are still now being performed in a timely manner. SWCD is responsible for the inspections and will work on getting the reports completed on time. Work is being planned to remove the dam at McKinley School.

SWCD – The On-Farm meeting was held Monday with a disappointing turnout. Results were similar to 2012. We received the signature page for the contribution agreement with Knox County for CRP. Calvin has been working on re-enrolls and engineering.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

MRBI- This project is closing out and currently there is no additional funding. Maybe in the future but for now Michelle is working to complete the projects under the MRBI. She has been assisting with EQIP paperwork. She reported there have been changes to the 314 Brush Management practices thru EQIP. The payment has been lowered to \$59/acres and there must be less than 10% Invasives to qualify.

RC&D – There is a meeting this afternoon and everyone is welcome to attend.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Yearly the district is required to designate a depository for their funds. Shane moved to continue doing business with First Farmers Bank and Trust, Michelle seconded and motion carried.

Rene' presented the claims for payment. Steve moved to allow payment of all claims presented, Glenn seconded, motion carried and form was signed.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Steve talked about the annual meeting. It is important that we get our message out. This meeting is our opportunity to visit and let people know what we are doing for conservation and water quality. The supervisors should be at Campy Tycony by 5:00 to greet our guests and assist them in signing up for the door prizes. A copy of the agenda was distributed. Shane will give introductions and get everyone seated before dinner which will be served promptly at 5:30. We want to make a good impression and make this an event that people look forward to each year. Invitations were also handed out to each supervisor.

It was decided that a power point will be created to run from 5:00 to 6:15 when the business portion of the meeting starts. It will be pictures of activities throughout the year. Activities are planned for kids downstairs. Rene' will contact the Y about firewood and see if they provide something to put the ashes in.

Michelle mentioned that Sierra Club is offering grants for \$200 that can be used for rental. This might be something we can look into.

Calvin mentioned that the video from the Soil Health Workshop is now on You Tube.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver _____

WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.

_____ DATE: _____