

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Tuesday, July 23, 2013
Howard County Service Center

Meeting was called to order by Shane Campbell at 9:05 a.m. Present were Evan Smith, Michelle Gilbert, Steve Byrum, Dave Duncan, Greg Lake, Sarah Lake, Paul Marcellino, Calvin Hartman, Jim Stites, and Rene' Weaver. Glenn Stephens was absent.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, August 20 at 9:00 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget hearings are scheduled for August 20, 21, and 22. We will probably be scheduled for Wednesday, August 21 around 2:30 p.m. Rene' will notify everyone once she gets confirmation.

The crowds for this year's 4-H fair were not as heavy as in past years. The worms go over well. There was a suggestion for rain gages.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Greg Lake reported for the Stormwater district. Approximately 80% of the Darrough Chapel residents have agreed to hook into the new sewer. The remaining residents will go through enforcement.

The Stormwater tent at the fair was okay. They were able to talk to more people however there were a couple of really hot nights and one very windy evening. The nightly presentations did not yield large crowds. Greg suggested that we group the agencies, health department, recycling district, Stormwater, SWCD and create an area where we could all benefit from the fair experience. Shane suggested forming a committee to brainstorm on how best each agency could utilize this opportunity. Greg agreed with this suggestion. Rene' will contact Sarah and Steve and see what we can do.

The Wildcat Experience is a wonderful opportunity for students to get outdoors and learn about our environment. Greg would like to see this event continue. Past years it has conflicted with the budget readings. He suggested that we move the date to the second or third week in September. This would allow participation from council members and commissioners. There will be a committee meeting very soon and strategies will be discussed on how to get more of the county schools involved.

Greg requested that the billing for plan reviews be sent in as we review them rather than on a quarterly basis. Rene' will see that this is taken care of.

Greg has been in contact with a gentleman from North Carolina that is moving to Kokomo that has extensive knowledge of Rule 5 and erosion control. He is retired and would be interested in volunteer work and possibly part-time employment after he gets settled.

Dave inquired about the status of a couple of projects that the surveyor will be doing some work on as well as NRCS. One of the projects involves reconstruction and it is currently in the hands of our engineers and we are waiting for a cost-estimate. Discussion was held about how to proceed with the project and billing.

Shane had a question about trees down at the intersection of Grassy Fork and Mud Creek. What is the best way to remove them? If there is someone that is willing to do the work and they have landowner permission, that would be the easiest way to remove the trees. Mud Creek is regulated in Tipton County so you would need to contact Jason, county surveyor if you wanted them to take a look at it.

EXTENSION – Paul reported that Extension had been busy with the county fair most of July. They are now back in the office and trying to catch up on items that were let go during the fair.

NRCS – Evan reported that the 5% status review was completed for HEL/WL compliance. There were a total of 6 tracts randomly selected for review.

CRP re-enrolls are almost complete, estimated at 60%. Calvin, Sarah, and Evan have all been helping.

We had 7 EQIP applications accepted for contract.

FSA – Lisa reported that they are busy with certification. The deadline has been extended to August 2. Program sign up continues thru September 16. The extensions are due to software issues. Due to the software problems, no recons have been done. Shares have been pro-rated. They can make owner/operator changes.

No sign-ups for general CRP. Most practices were better going through the Continuous CRP. All SAFE Acres have been obligated except for Bat habitat which involves tree planting.

SWCD – Calvin has been working on CRP I&E's for re-enrolls. He has been doing some of the Rule 5 on-site reviews as his time allows. There have been a few practices installed such as block chute, stream crossing, and pipes.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

RC&D – Leah Harden has resigned as President for RC&D due to workload. Calvin is Vice-President so he will be handling duties of the president. Mark your calendars for August 30 for the Soil Health Workshop at the Beck Center in West Lafayette. Registration starts at 8:00 a.m. and program begins at 8:15 a.m. Registration is \$15.00 and includes lunch catered by Parrett's.

A CWI meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 6 at 10:00 a.m. here at the office. We will be discussing upcoming testing, forms, and results from testing we have already performed.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Rene' presented the claims for payment. Shane moved to approve the claims as presented. Steve seconded, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Calvin reported that the videos from the Tipton Soil Health Workshop are now available on the website.

Kerry asked what Jim thought of the event. Jim enjoyed the morning sessions but had to leave a noon. The day was too long. About 3 hours is the limit for something. Everyone is busy and their time is valuable. Best time to hold workshops, February or March and small groups work well. Rather than pay large fees for speakers, it was suggested that resources be pooled and utilize the expertise that we have within our reach.

Shane suggested having "Lunch and Learn". Invite farmers for lunch and give a presentation lasting only one hour.

Paul asked about a location that we could use for research and cover crops. Kerry mentioned that Glenn has offered use of his 11 acres. We will have to talk with Glenn and make arrangements if the board is interested in his offer.

Kerry reported that NRCS will not be offering contribution agreements for 2013. Our current agreement will expire on August 15. This is due to budget reductions. The board discussed how this might impact our budget. For 2014, we should not see an impact because we have not had to pay rent for the past two years. In 2014 we will be charged rent. As the year progresses we will continue to watch the budget.

Rene' represented the SWCD at an educational open house hosted by Howard County Extension last Friday. There was a good turnout approximately 30 educators attended to look at displays and receive resource materials from the different agencies represented.

Rene' reminded everyone of the upcoming business plan meeting scheduled for Thursday, August 15 at 9:00 a.m. here at the office. Geneva Rawlins, our District Support Specialist will be here to help us through the process. Rene' would like to see all supervisors attend. It is important to have everyone's input.

A Forestry Committee meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 20 at 8:00 a.m. prior to our monthly meeting. We will be discussing what to sell for 2014. Paul recommended that we stress the spacing of windbreaks. He has seen many windbreaks that have been planted improperly, usually too close together. Recommended spacing is very important as the tree mature. If they are too close, you may have to remove trees in order to save trees.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver _____

WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.

DATE: _____