

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Monday, March 18, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Michelle Gilbert, member. Others attending were Evan Smith, Steve Byrum, Paul Marcellino, Calvin Hartman, Jim Stites, Glenn Stephens, Sarah Brichford, Don Cree, and Rene' Weaver. Shane Campbell was absent.

As this time Steve Byrum, Vice Chairperson took over the meeting. Glenn moved to approve the February minutes, Jim seconded, motion carried and minutes were signed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was held on committees. Michelle moved to retain the 2012 committee list. Glenn seconded. A list of 2013 committee members is attached.

The next meeting will be held on Thursday, April 11 at 12:00 Noon at the nature center at Jackson Morrow park during our tree packing. Lunch will be provided. We will have a lunch meeting and celebrate Evan and Jim's birthdays.

Rene' reported that she has sent the River Friendly Famer application to Dale Zell. This does not have to be submitted until June but she wanted to give him enough time to get it completed and back to her for her to submit online.

Kerry had given Rene' information about Cover Crop signs that are put in fields of producers who are using cover crops. The idea was discussed and it was decided that when a producer signs up to plant cover crops they can be ask at that time if they would be interested in a sign. If we get enough interest then we could look into getting signs.

4-H fair is just around the corner! What would the board like the focus to be? Soil Health is the big buzz word. Soil health is not just for farm fields. Gardens and flower beds may also benefit. Jim moved to use "Soil Health" as the theme. We also have our t-shirts that we wore last year that we can use. We will have the worms again so Rene' will get them ordered.

AGENCY REPORTS:

PURDUE EXTENSION – Paul reported that Ag Day for 5th grade will be held tomorrow out at the fairgrounds from 9:30 to 2:30. He has been assigned to the Conservation Cropping System Initiative regional hub. It involves research, demonstrations, and speaking engagements. He is also serving on several state committees.

NRCS- Evan reported that all CSP payments are made. There are 16 applications for EQIP and 10 of those are for cover crops. There are approximately 26 wetland determinations left to do.

FSA- Lisa distributed the 2013 cost-share rates. Still cannot take CRP sign-ups for 2013 and they are currently shutdown for about a month for a software change to "Midas". Farm records and crop reporting are to be the first records that should be available. FSA is to receive training in April/May. A general CRP sign-up is schedule to run from May 20 to June 14. The ACRE deadline is June 3. Please make appointment before coming to the office. A SURE report is complete and there are some producers eligible for a payment.

COUNTY STORMWATER – The two-stage ditch workshop is this Tuesday and Wednesday. For calculations they are using the Ohio State program. Howard County has 5 ½ miles of two-stage ditches in segments.

The Guardians along with Stormwater district and other agencies held a clean-up along the Cannon Goyer and Stahl Shank ditches. The debris collected was placed at the corner of Park and Markland.

Plans are underway for a rain garden workshop at the fairgrounds. Time and date will be announced soon. This year Stormwater will have their display at the fair outside of the north end of the tennis center. They will have some interactive activities that involve water quality.

Darrough Chapel project is moving along. Sarah has been working with Calvin on the MS4 permitting.

SWCD – There will be a tillage transect conducted this year in May or June. We would like to have all partners participate with the transect. Calvin has been attending the steering committee meetings for the Deer Creek/Sugar Creek 319. The committee is working on gathering information on the identified issues and whether they can be proved or disproved.

CITY STORMWATER – Don reported that he has talked with representatives from the Kingston project. There was sediment on the road that needed to be cleaned up. The Senior Citizen tower at Washington has had sediment problems. He has been working with Omni Source and the Quarry. The McKinley school dam should be removed sometime this spring. All permits are in except the one from the Corp. Quotes should be available next week. He has been working on additional tree planting and the islands downtown.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

MRBI- Michelle reported that the MRBI has ended and she has been reporting progress at the annual meetings. She is now assisting District Conservationist with EQIP paperwork. She will be organizing the upcoming Water Blitz that will meet at the Russiaville Town Hall on April 19 beginning at 2:00 p.m. and ending at 4:30 p.m.

RC&D – Working on a letter to the Walton Foundation for floodplain easements along the Wildcat Creek. A letter needs to be sent and then we wait for an invitation to submit a proposal. Plans are being finalized for a Master Naturalist Program in Flora that will take place during the day. In August, RC&D has an opportunity to participate in a soil health/cover crop event. More information to follow for this event.

CWI – Funds still available from Tipton CWI for planting cover crop. For the CWI research grant, producers need to be notified and reminded not to spray cover crop until we get the test done.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Rene' presented the claims for payment. Michelle moved to approve claims and Jim seconded, motion carried. Rene' requested that she be allowed to order new ink pens. The ones that we currently have are old and not working. It was agreed to allow the purchase of new pens.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rene' reminded everyone of the cover crop field day scheduled for Thursday morning at Glenn's place. She will call Russiaville Town Hall about chairs for the field day.

There was discussion about farm ground for test plots. It would be nice to be able to find a location that could be used for research.

If anyone hears anything about our seeder, please let Rene' know. Right now we do not know where it is.

Calvin talked about the district purchasing an I Pad to use for MS4 inspections. Photos can be taken at the sites and included with the inspections and sent directly to Stormwater district. The program currently being used is compatible. You can also pull up the plan and see the inspection reports. Michelle made a motion to allow Calvin to check into the cost and report at the next meeting on his findings. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

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: _____