

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Tuesday, August 19, 2014

Meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairperson Shane Campbell. Those present were Michelle Gilbert, Sarah Brichford, Calvin Hartman, Glenn Stephens, Steve Byrum, Paul Marcellino, Mell Nevils, and Rene' Weaver. Susan Kirkpatrick was absent.

Michelle made a motion to approve the July minutes as written. Glenn seconded, motion carried and minutes were signed by supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS:

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16 at 9:00 a.m.

Rene' presented a request from a contractor to be added to our contractor list. All agreed to go ahead and add his name to our list. Rene' will make that change and print updated copies of our list.

AGENCY REPORTS:

COUNTY STORMWATER – Sarah complimented Mell on his work. He is doing a great job and things are starting to run smoothly on plan reviews and on-site inspections. She knows of a couple of new plans he has just received. Mell also indicated that things were starting to pick up.

FSA – Lisa reported FSA is entering the last couple months of their fiscal year which ends in September. All of their CRP re-enrolls have been signed. They are now waiting on Kerry to do his paperwork. It must all be completed by September 30. There are SAFE acres for IN Bat habitat available. It is tree plantings. Lisa discussed some of the newer programs and reported that their office is preparing for the 2014-2015 programs. Production evidence and yield adjustments should be what farmers are working on now. Letters have gone out with this information. Make sure that you communicate with your landowners on production and yield information.

NRCS – Kerry is on annual leave until September 2.

SWCD – Calvin reported on the strip-till conference he attended in Iowa. On-Farm Network meeting is set for January 20. This year will be a breakfast meeting. Start time has not been set but will probably be around 7:30 a.m. The Corn/Soybean Council will be supporting the continuation of this research project. He has been working on CRP re-enrolls doing the field inspections. He and Sarah are working on a large project with a waterway, tile system and several laterals that will be starting soon.

Mell has been busy with incoming plans for review and on-site inspections of active plans.

EXTENSION – Paul reported that their office has been extremely busy. Fairs are over and they are re-grouping. The joint farm bill meeting with FSA & NRCS went very well with good attendance. He would like to get a fall meeting scheduled for evening. He is preparing to work with Veteran's that have recently moved into the new Veteran's apartments. They have a location for a garden and he will be assisting them with that.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

RC&D – Calvin reported that RC&D will meet today. One topic of discussion will be the Water Blitz. There has been talk about discontinuing the blitz or dropping some sites and adding new ones within Deer Creek watershed. September 12 is the date for the fall blitz. They are always looking for volunteers to assist with this project.

EDUCATION – Michelle and Rene' attended the women's learning circle on Monday in Russiaville. It went very well. We had 6 ladies attend. Would have liked to have more, however the small group is nice. Everyone feels comfortable with each other and good conversation came out of that.

There will be an intermediate rain garden workshop held on September 17 at Ivy Tech in Lafayette. This is open to anyone who would like to learn more about planning a rain garden. Rusty Schmidt who wrote the Blue Thumb Guide to Rain Gardens will be conducting the class.

The W.E. (Wildcat Experience) will be held on September 17/18 at Camp Tycony. We have received confirmation from all the county schools. Rene' has been working with the teachers and Sarah has been working on the learning stations and the volunteers to work those stations. Everyone is encouraged to attend one or both days of this event.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Rene' reported that the pre-proposal for the RCPP project was accepted. Now the actual proposal will be written and submitted. Once this has been sent we will wait to hear if it gets approved. If approved, we will be working with the county surveyor, Stormwater, Notre Dame, and TNC.

Our budget hearing is scheduled for Thursday afternoon at 1:45. Shane and Michelle will plan to attend.

Calvin reported that the seed for the cover crops is ready to pick up. The total amount due to Evan Click is \$747.00. This money will come from the CWI funds.

Rene' reported on the ongoing plans for the annual meeting. Steve Byrum and Glenn Stephens' terms will end in 2014. Glenn is elected and Steve is appointed. She asked that they both consider serving for another 3-year term. We are reserved at Elite Banquet for February 10 and February 17 for hazardous weather. Our keynote speaker is confirmed for the 10th. She is not available on the 17th. Our next step is to select our Conservation Farmer and Conservationist recipients. Rene' will have this information at the September meeting.

We have received information for this round of Clean Water Indiana Funding. Is the board interested in continuing the current CWI for cover crop research for an additional 3 years? Calvin commented that all of the current landowners are willing to continue. Shane moved to allow the staff to pursue another CWI grant in 2015 for the purpose of continuation of the current CWI for cover crop research. Steve seconded. Motion was carried. Rene' will contact the other counties and get a time set up when they can all attend so we can begin the application process.

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.

_____ DATE: _____