

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Tuesday, December 16, 2014

Meeting was called to order by Steve Byrum, Vice-Chairperson. Those present were Kristen Clason with Wabash River Enhancement Corporation, Susan Kirkpatrick, Geneva Tyler, Calvin Hartman, Glenn Stephens, Mell Nevils, Paul Marcellino, Sarah Brichford, Kerry Smith, Don Cree and Rene' Weaver. Michelle Gilbert was absent. Shane Campbell arrived later.

Susan moved to approve the November minutes as written, Glenn seconded, motion carried and minutes were signed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Due to the On-Farm Network meeting scheduled for January 20, the SWCD meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 9:00 a.m.

Kristen Clason talked about the Deer Creek Sugar Creek Watershed Cost-Share Program that will kick off on January 8, 2015. Funding is from IDEM thru a Clean Water Act Section 319 Grant. It takes in portions of Carroll, Cass, Howard, Miami, and Tippecanoe counties. Cost-Share is available for several eligible practices. Application process begins January 1, 2015 and will end March 2, 2015. Funding decisions should be made by March 31, 2015. The program will close on January 31, 2016.

Geneva Tyler, ISDA Division of Soil Conservation District Support Specialist attended the meeting. She commented on the district meeting that was held last week. No additional news to share.

AGENCY REPORTS:

EXTENSION - Paul is keeping busy with meetings concerning the new farm bill options. He has been handling more 4-H work due to that position being currently vacant. Katie Rickard is assisting 3 days a week with the 4-H program. The state has changed the deadline for 4-H sign ups. It is now January 15. Enrollment is down so please spread the word. He has been working with the Junior Leader program. There are a couple of farmer meetings set January 6 at Honeywell Center and January 9 at the Beck Center.

FSA – Lisa gave an update on the farm bill changes and deadlines. FSA cannot do recons at this time. They can make boundary changes as long as they do not affect yields. There are still SAFE acres available for bobwhite and bats. CRP letters are sent.

COUNTY MS4 – Sarah thanked the board for partnering on the 2015 calendar. She attended an ag and water quality meeting. Soil health was a topic. An attorney from Farm Bureau talked about economics.

Sarah reported that Stormwater has an audit coming up soon. She and Mell visited over 20 home sites recently. Education needs to happen with the home builders. Hold discussion of plan reviews and how it needs to be handled. Check and balances.

RCPP – Howard County backed out for now until additional funding is granted. We will be the “control”. 2-stage ditch will be installed but there are not enough producers willing to plant cover crops at this time. This will allow us additional time to talk to the producers.

CITY MS4- Don gave an update on the baseball stadium. Talked about the packet A's for the individual home sites. There are 1-2 builders doing the appropriate measures, most are not. It was discussed to plan a workshop for the home builders. City MS4 program just completed a full program review. There is also a review of FEMA flood plain areas for insurance going on.

DISTRICT MS4- Mell reported that he has been busy doing on-site reviews. He mentioned again that he and Sarah had visited several sites.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

NRCS – Kerry reported that 12 contracts were eligible for CSP extensions. 11 of the 12 are proceeding and must be completed by December 30. Applications are now being accepted for new CSP contracts. Current CSP payments are being processed either for December or January payment. EQIP sign up will end on December 19. There are 8 individuals interested. CRP renewals total approximately 58. The HEL/WL request on hand is mostly drainage and fencerow clearing.

RC&D – There is a meeting this afternoon in Lafayette.

CWI- Rene' reported that the current CWI will end on April 30, 2015. She is making payments for the cover crop cost share and getting ready to update the information in Share Point.

OFN – January 20 is the date for the Tipton/Howard On-Farm Network meeting. Our funding has ended for this program. As of now, we do not know if there are plans to continue the current group. Corn/Soybean council may pick up the cost but nothing has been determined. We will be receiving additional funds from the Corn Marketing Council for the work that Howard and Tipton has put into the program. The funds should be shared with Tipton County. Susan moved to approve splitting the OFN funds with Tipton County. Shane seconded, motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The truck is really high and difficult to get into. Two estimates were presented for running boards. Shane moved to allow the purchase of running boards from Panda Vans. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

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

OTHER BUSINESS:

Ted McKinney, Director of the Indiana State Department of Agriculture has agreed to speak at the annual meeting in February. Mr. & Mrs. Bob Hoshaw will receive the Conservationist Award.

Paul mentioned that a Tree Steward Program will be held on March 6 and March 13 at Rogers Pavilion.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver _____

WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.

_____ DATE: _____