

MINUTES  
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting  
Tuesday, May 20, 2014

Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Shane Campbell, Chairperson. Those attending were Susan Kirkpatrick, Geneva Tyler, Mell Nevils, Michelle and John Gilbert, Glenn Stephens, Steve Byrum, Kerry Smith, and Rene' Weaver.

Michelle moved to approve the minutes of the April meeting as written. Susan seconded, and motion carried. Minutes were signed by the supervisors.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Mell Nevils is now working part-time doing MS4 plan reviews and on-site inspections. He began on May 5. He and Calvin have been out on inspections. He has also met with Don Cree, Greg Lake, and Sarah Brichford. We welcome Mell to the SWCD!

The next meeting date is being changed due to conflicts with the regular date. It will be on Monday, June 9 at 9:00 a.m.

Rene' routed the report from the Water Blitz held in April. Michelle commented that our E.Coli samples were misplaced and did not get processed. This is why you see a large grey area on the E.Coli report. It is also uncertain if the RC&D will continue this testing due to the cost.

Rene' presented information and a cost estimate from Calvin to attend the Strip-Till Conference in Iowa. When Calvin attends these conferences he brings back a wealth of information that he uses when discussing best management practices with our customers. Kerry also commended Calvin for his knowledge, especially the No-Till information he obtained from the No-Till Conferences. Shane moved to allow Calvin to attend the Strip-Till Conference in Iowa on July 30/31, 2015 at an estimated cost of \$1,050 for registration, accommodations, meals, and mileage. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

CITY/COUNTY STORMWATER – Mell reported that he has met with Don Cree from the city and would like to meet with Cary Stranahan, Don's supervisor. He has met with Greg Lake and Sarah Brichford and went to look at a couple of active sites with them. He has been able to inspect all 6 active sites since starting. He has plans to contact Rob Beck from IDEM and would like to have the Notice of Intent letters sent to Stormwater so we know when a job is going to start which would help when trying to schedule pre-construction meetings.

FSA – Lisa handed out a Fact Sheet for Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) Program for Fruit, Vegetable and Wild Rice Provisions. The office is beginning to make base and yield changes. Crop certification must be completed by July 15. Make an appointment. This is also the crop insurance certification deadline. She is also looking for field reporters. The individual must be able to climb grain bins. Lisa reported that land grants to universities have been offered to develop software to assist in determining what program is best for your operation, ARC or PLC. This software should be available very soon.

EXTENSION – Paul was unable to attend.

NRCS – Kerry report that round 1 for EQIP ended on May 16. We had 11 applications consisting of pit closures, cover crops, no-till and strip-till. As for CRP, FSA is not allowed to take any new signups until further notice. We are anticipating the middle of June. This includes the re-enroll contracts which there are 69 with 112 practices.

Calvin and Sarah have been doing field work for the re-enrolls so once FSA gets to green light to proceed; a lot of the field work will be complete.

There are several CSP contracts expiring.

Kerry reported that he had sent letters to landowners in reference to a 5% compliance review. The selection comes from a randomly selected list generated in Kansas City. HEL Compliance and Wetland Compliance will be reviewed. By policy FSA County Committee Members and Members of the SWCD must be reviewed.

There are currently 25 wetland, clearing, and tiling request that need action.

SWCD- Rene' has been working on gathering information for the fair and compiling CWI information for the report. Calvin has been busy with field work and some design work (see under NRCS).

### **ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

SWCD – Calvin and Sarah have been out on several waterway repairs. They have completed 4 layouts for projects, installed 2 structures and a waterway layout for rebuilding. Kerry also thanked Michelle for all of the work she has put in on the 7 brush management and 2 timber stand improvement projects. She has been the lead on these projects.

The Kokomo Howard County Public Library has invited the SWCD to participate in their summer reading kickoff event. Susan, Michelle, and Rene' have offered to work. The event will take place on Monday, June 2 at the South Branch on Center Road. They requested an interactive activity. Rene' presented ideas to the board. Mood pencils with fun foam to make an earthworm and dirt dough that the kids can play with. We would also have a list of recommended reading to go along with our Soil/Earthworm theme.

The Forestry Committee will meet following this meeting to discuss a 2015 tree sale.

Rene' reported that the 2012 CWI grant for research is way under budget. Out of the \$60,000 we have spent \$11500! There will be a meeting of the counties next Wednesday (May 28 at 9:30) to talk about this. Geneva was present and the board discussed some options we have for spending the funds. We can use some for adult education, publishing the data that we collect, contracting someone to coordinate the testing to mention a couple. We discussed going another 3 years and Geneva stated that as long as 66% of the funding is obligated we could apply for an additional grant. The funds do not have to be spent, just obligated. The meeting next Wednesday is open for anyone to attend.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Rene' requested approval to purchase 2,000 mood pencils to use at the library kickoff and fair. Michelle moved to approve the purchase of 2,000 pencils, Steve seconded, motion carried. She would also like to purchase 1,000 ink pens. Susan moved to approve the purchase of 1,000 ink pens, Shane seconded, motion carried. We can order 500 I love soil stickers at a cost of \$20.00 plus shipping. We would be able to use them at the library and fair as well. Shane moved to approve the purchase of 1,000 stickers, Steve seconded, motion carried.

Rene' has been researching printers to replace the laser that is connected to the front computer. That computer cannot be connected to the copier because it is not on the USDA system. After searching, comparing, and

talking with Adam, she has narrowed it down to two. According to Adam the only difference is a wireless capability. Susan moved to allow the purchase of the HP Officejet Pro X451dn, Shane seconded, motion carried. Rene' will proceed with the purchase.

Claims were presented for payment. Steve moved to accept as presented, Shane seconded, motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Kerry reported that NRCS has partnered with a non-profit group to host learning circles for women. One of these learning circles was held last year at the Farm Bureau Office. These circles are strictly for women and it has been noted that 70% of those women who attend will take one conservation action within a year after attending. There are plans to hold another learning circle this year. No details have been finalized to date. Kerry will keep the board informed as he receives more information.

Rene' told the board that this is an off year for the tillage transects but if we would like to do one, we need to let Geneva know so she can get the materials together. After discussing our current workload and activities it was decided not to do a transect this year.

The fair display will focus on soils and soil health. Rene' showed the board some of the ideas that she has found with an earthworm theme. Also a seed necklace made from a plastic condiment cup with a lid.

The 2015 county budget forms have arrived! We must have our budget submitted by June 27. Rene' will work on the information and have it ready to review at our June 9 meeting.

Mell needs a couple of shirts with the SWCD logo and Susan also needs a shirt. Shane would like another one in a different color. Rene' will get an order together. In addition to shirts, Mell and Susan need nametags and Mell could use business cards.

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.***

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\_\_\_\_\_ DATE: \_\_\_\_\_