

MINUTES  
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting  
Tuesday, October 21, 2014

Chairperson Shane Campbell called the meeting or order at 9:10 a.m. Those attending were Paul Marcellino, Kerry Smith, Glenn Stephens, Michelle Gilbert, and Rene' Weaver. Absent were Susan Kirkpatrick and Steve Byrum.

Michelle moved to approve the minutes of the September meeting as written. Shane seconded, motion carried and minutes were signed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 18 at 9:00 a.m.

The election committee for the supervisor election is Shane Campbell Chairperson, Michelle Gilbert, and Paul Marcellino members. Rene' asked Glenn if he would consider another 3-year term as supervisor. He is to let her know by the November meeting.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

EXTENSION - They have hired Katie their summer intern part-time to help out in the office. He has attended several conferences this summer into fall. The 4-H position is currently vacant so he has been covering the duties. Reminder that 4-H enrollment begins on November 1 and ends on January 15, 2015. The 4-H Extravaganza will be held on December 6. The position held by Susie Nehr should be filled very soon.

The Community Garden harvested over 20,600 lbs. of produce this year. Some upcoming events are November 25-Farm Bill meeting in Carroll County. December 4-small pigs workshop, December 8-PARP credits.

NRCS – Kerry reported Howard County had eleven EQIP contracts. Out of eleven, seven were accepted. Two of the seven decided not to participate. We had pit closures, tree planting, pollinator, and hay planting. The first round of EQIP funding deadline is December 19.

For CSP we have 12 contracts that are up for renewal/extension. Kerry will be working on these within the next couple of months. CSP deadline is December 15.

CRP 69 contracts up for re-enrolling. 60 of those were re-enrolled. There were a few that declined due to potential sale of farm ground or they needed additional projects.

The wetland and HEL request are slowing down for the time being. We were able to complete 12 of the request. Several are wetland or clearing request and these take more time to process.

SWCD MS4 – Mell has been pretty busy this last month. Construction has picked up somewhat with commercial properties. He is attending a conference with Greg Lake today. The program continues to run smoothly and Stormwater District is pleased with Mell's work.

SWCD – Rene' reported that Calvin's time has been spent on On-Farm Network stalk nitrate testing and Clean Water Indiana stalk testing. He and Sarah have been out doing some surveying and construction checks on a large project.

Rene' has been working on the Clean Water Indiana grant proposal. It has been submitted and we will wait to see what the SSCB decides. If we are accepted, this will allow the five county cover crop research project to continue for an additional three years.

**ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

FORESTRY – We received approval from the Park Department to use the barn and nature center in April for the sale. Rene' will begin work on the form and get ready to mail it out in January.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Rene' presented all claims for payment. Michelle moved to allow the claims to be paid as presented. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

The RCCP proposal has been submitted to Notre Dame and we have been notified that the other proposal from Indiana decided to not continue so it looks as if our proposal has a very strong possibility of being accepted. We should know something around the first week or so in November. This proposal has a variety of partners ranging from SWCD's to The Nature Conservancy, County Surveyor, Stormwater District and other large corporations that have agreed to contribute dollars to the project. In order to do some pre-planning, Calvin, Sarah, Dave, and Greg met with our area engineers to make sure that this two-stage ditch project was feasible along the Henry Gilbert ditch. The engineers agreed that it could be done. The group has also been in contact with the stakeholders along the ditch. The next step is to set a Town Hall meeting to talk to the landowners and discuss the process in which this project will take place. A potential meeting site is Merrell Brothers. This will be a 5 year program. Plans would be for ditch clean up and bank creation in year 1. This proposal is a great partnership with multi agency personnel working together.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver \_\_\_\_\_

***WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.***

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