

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

Steve Byrum, Vice-Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. Those attending were Calvin Hartman, Mell Nevils, Sarah Brichford, Michelle Gilbert, Susan Kirkpatrick, Shane Campbell (came in later) and Rene' Weaver. Kerry Smith attended to give his NRCS report then returned to working on CRP paperwork. Glenn Stephens was absent.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21 at 9:00 a.m.

Rene' passed around a flyer on an upcoming Invasive Species workshop to be held at Camp Cullom on Saturday October 18.

The 5 County CWI group met last week and agreed apply for another CWI grant to continue the current CWI grant from 2012 for the cover crop research. Howard will continue to be the lead county. The application must be sent to Geneva by October 1. Rene' has been working on the narrative for the application. The expenses need to be determined and she has been working on this part as well.

Clinton County would like to apply for a CWI grant to offer cost-share for cover crops in the Middlefork Wildcat watershed and is seeking support from the counties that have landowners within this area. Howard has a small section in the watershed. Steve moved to support Clinton County SWCD in their application for a CWI grant. Michelle seconded and motion was approved.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

COUNTY STORMWATER – Sarah reported that everything continues to run smoothly with Stormwater District and the SWCD. She complimented Mell on the work he has been doing. They continue to work with the construction crew and improve the quality of incoming plans. Rain gages will be given to each site so they may monitor rain events. She mentioned the W.E. event scheduled for tomorrow and Thursday, rain or shine. Everyone is invited to come out and see what it is all about.

She has a date scheduled to do a stream ecology class for the IN Master Naturalist program. The Stormwater District participated in the Day of Caring held in Kokomo. She reported that the trash removed from the Wildcat Creek was not near as large as previous years. This is an improvement.

She received a report of excavation taking place in the Little Wildcat. This is not allowed. She told the caller to contact IDNR and they may refer the caller to IDEM. You cannot excavate in a natural stream.

FSA – Lis reported that her office is working on fiscal year end tasks along with base re-allocations and CRP re-enrolls. CRP must be entered before September 30. An election for LAA-2 will be held. Ballots should arrive soon. Bob Shanks and Theresa Miller are the candidates.

SWCD – Calvin, Paul, and Michelle seeded one of the CWI plots that is in standing corn with cover crop seed yesterday in the rain. Stalk testing for On-Farm Network and CWI will start very soon. A large construction project has begun and Sarah Lake has been handling the questions and construction checks. Calvin has

completed all of the CRP re-enroll field visits and has paperwork to complete for them. He has also completed the status review field checks.

NRCS – Howard County had 7 EQIP application selected and 5 of those actually signed up. Some of the practices include cover crops, tree planting, pollinator habitat, waste storage, hay planting, and pest management. Kerry complimented the district for the local ranking sheet that was developed during the local work group meeting. It worked very well at the local ranking. He mentioned that the next local work group meeting will be on Monday, September 22 at 9:00 a.m. CSP applications for 2015 are being accepted now. This program rewards farmers for conservation practices they are already doing. If accepted into the program, they must agree to add two new activities to their current operation.

The 2010 CSP contracts are now eligible for renewal. We have 12 contracts and 11 of those have decided to renew. We are still waiting on one.

Kerry is working on CRP paperwork. He must have everything to FSA by Friday, September 19 so FSA can get the information into their system by September 30. Kerry reported that he has also received a few new CRP request for mainly waterways.

The wetland backlog has decreased somewhat thanks to Rene' assisting Kerry. She has been completing the paperwork for some of the requests and the backlog is now down to approximately 27.

SWCD MS4 – Mell reported that the state is in the process of redoing the Rule 5, Rule 13, etc. They will be permits instead of rules. Some of the changes will be significant for Indiana. We could see the completed by year end but not likely.

There have been approximately 4 plans come in for review within the last 3 weeks. He currently has around 20 sites that he needs to visit for on-sites.

EXTENSION – Paul was unable to attend the meeting.

### **ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

RC&D – The Indiana Master Naturalist Program has begun in Clinton County this year. RC&D is sponsoring the invasive species workshop coming up in October. The annual meeting will be held on September 23 beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Tippecanoe Extension Office.

EDUCATION – Rene' again, reminded everyone that W.E. will be held tomorrow and Thursday at Camp Tycony. All are welcome to come out and see what we do!

FORESTRY – Quick update. All trees and plants are now reserved for the spring sale. Rene' will start working on the order form soon. This will be mailed out in January 2015.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Calvin presented the information he had compiled with truck information. Brad Howell Ford came in with the least expensive quote. After discussion of whether to finance or pay cash, the board determined that the district's financial situation is such that it could pay cash. Shane moved to proceed with the purchase of the

Ford F150 truck as described on the quote from Brad Howell Ford in Greentown. Susan seconded the motion and it carried. Calvin will contact them today and start the process to purchase.

Woodland Steward Institute has requested that we assist with the printing of the Woodland Steward newsletter sent out to the landowners in Howard County. The amount is \$250 and is used to offset the printing of the newsletter. Shane moved to continue our support to WSI for printing cost. Michelle seconded, motion carried.

Rene' reviewed the remaining claims. Susan moved to accept the financial statement and claims as presented. Steve seconded and motion carried.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Update on the RCPP: 2 conference calls have taken place and a field visit of the watershed. Notre Dame is working on the proposal. As far as we can tell, things are moving along as planned.

We were notified by auditor Martha Lake that the council approved \$1,000 raises for all full time employees and \$500 for part-time employees. As far as the remaining budget, no word but do not anticipate and problems at this time.

It is time to select the Conservation Farmer and Conservationist for 2015 to be recognized at the annual meeting.

The board reviewed the list of candidates. Michelle moved to honor Lannie and Scott Bogue for our Conservation Farmer award. Shane seconded, motion carried.

Steve moved to honor Lynn Flora for our Conservationist award. Michelle seconded, and motion carried.

Rene' asked Steve if he was interested in continuing his position on the SWCD board as an appointed district supervisor. Steve is willing to serve for another three years. She will contact Glenn to see if he is interested in continuing his position on the SWCD board as an elected supervisor.

Calvin requested approval to attend the Strip Till conference in Iowa on August 5 and 6 of 2015. If he completes the registration now he can save \$50. Shane moved to allow Calvin to go ahead and register for the conference. Michelle 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.***

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