

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Tuesday, January 13, 2015

Meeting called to order by Vice-Chairperson Steve Byrum at 9:20 a.m. Those attending were Susan Kirkpatrick, Glenn Stephens, Calvin Hartman, Kerry Smith, Mell Nevils, Sarah Brichford, and Rene' Weaver. Shane Campbell was at the Annual Conference Business meeting and Michelle Gilbert was absent.

Susan moved to approve the minutes of the December meeting as written. Glenn seconded and motion carried and minutes were signed by the supervisors.

NEW BUSINESS:

The February meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17 beginning at 9:00 a.m. Susan will not be available for this meeting.

No mail

AGENCY REPORTS:

NRCS – Kerry reported on NRCS activities. He is currently working on CSP renewals and hopes to have contracts completed this week. Next he will be EQIP sign ups. Wetland determinations are coming along. He has been able to get 7 non-ag requests completed with the help of Chris Torp. Each determination takes approximately 10 hours to complete.

He reported on the dollar amounts for the national governments operating budget. There have been funding cuts to programs such as EQIP.

COUNTY STORMWATER – Sarah Brichford reported that she is working with Mell on a home builders workshop. Date has not been determined but they are looking at some time in March. The County Stormwater meeting will be held next week. Their office recently went through an audit. They were found to be in good standing with a good housekeeping report. They are working with the county highway department on improvements for some of their housekeeping methods.

SWCD/MS4 – Mell reported that he has received 2 new plans for review. There are two plans ready to be closed out but require ground cover before the can be closed completely. There are several active sites, some of them have stopped work for the winter but will resume again in the spring.

FSA – Lisa reported that there are 50 CRP re-enrolls for this year. FSA has sent the letters to producers and have received 10 responses to date. Their main focus right now is the updating of yields and bases, working with the producers and trying to get everyone appointments before the deadline.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Calving reported that he and Sarah were able to complete a few projects in December. They are starting back up with engineering work again.

RC&D – Dues will be forthcoming. There is a Master Naturalist program going on now in Benton County.

FORESTRY – Rene’ presented the tree sale information. Staff recommendation is to leave the cost the same and try to reduce the inventory for Saturday. Also, Calvin suggested that we wrap all trees during our packing days, even those not spoken for so it makes it easier on Saturday and we have less to clean up.

ON-FARM NETWORK – Our Tipton/Howard meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 20, 8:00 a.m. in Tipton for our producers who have participated in the program. We will be going over the results of this year’s tests. Calvin reported that it looks as if the Indiana Corn/Soybean Council will pick up the On-Farm Network program. We would like to continue with the existing producers and possibly add additional producers. The name of the new program will be Indiana Field Advantage.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Mell requested registration of \$40.00 to attend an upcoming program for Local Technical Assistants. Steve moved to approve \$40.00 for the registration fee. Susan seconded, motion approved.

Rene’ presented the claims for payment. Susan approved that claims be paid. Steve seconded, motion carried.

Yearly the district must approve a depository for their funds. Rene’ suggested that we continue with First Farmers Bank & Trust. Susan moved to continue to use FFBT for the district’s depository, Glenn seconded, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The annual meeting is set for February 10, snow date of February 17. Doors are to open at 5:00 p.m. Staff and supervisors should be at the facility by 4:30 or before. Stormwater will be providing two door prizes and the district will be providing 2 as well.

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.

DATE: _____