

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

The meeting was called to order by Shane Campbell, Chairperson at 9:20 a.m. Those present were Susan Kirkpatrick, Steve Byrum, Calvin Hartman, Mell Nevils, Kerry Smith, and Rene' Weaver. Sarah Brichford and Glenn Stephens arrived later. Michelle Gilbert was absent.

Steve made a motion to approve the February minutes as written. Susan seconded and motion carried. Minutes were signed by supervisors.

Committee assignments will remain the same as the 2014 committees. Shane agreed to remain as Chairperson and Susan offered to hold the position of Vice-Chairperson and Steve as Secretary. Susan move nominations to be closed, seconded by Shane. Motion passed.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

April's meeting will be held on April 16 12:00 Noon at the nature center at Jackson Morrow Park during the tree packing.

There was no mail to review.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

Rene' gave the report for Extension. Paul is out of town. Extension has two upcoming programs, Code Red and Hort Lite and Mini Hort Lite. A 4-H educator has been hired. Josh Winrotte will begin on April 1, 2015.

MS4- Mell reported that he has had cataract surgery on one eye and is getting along well and has a surgery date schedule for the second eye. He gave a report of his activities. Mell has been working with Rob Beck from IDEM on sites that have been placed under enforcement with the state. There are several active sites and 3-4 sites that are ready to be closed once minor details are completed. Stormwater and SWCD will hold a homebuilders workshop on Friday March 20. It will begin at 9:00 a.m. and conclude at noon with lunch. Mell has talked with Randy Braun concerning the new Rule 5 permit. It is not ready yet. There are still items to work out.

FSA – Lisa reported that their time has been spent on getting base and yield adjustments completed. Now they are working on elections. If you do not make an election you will automatically be put into the PLC program and will not be eligible for 2014 payments. It is important to make your elections. The office has started to work on CRP re-enrolls and new practices for CRP.

NRCS – Kerry reported that 5 of the 12 EQIP applications were accepted. 4 of the 5 are signed. CSP is complete for the 2015 extensions 11 of 12 were extended. Howard has 1 new CSP signup. There are 2 CSP extensions for 2016. There are approximately 55-58 CRP re-enrollments. Lori Beeker from White County has been assisting with preparing the paperwork for the re-enrollments.

Kerry reported that 15 HEL/WL determinations are complete. Chris Torp has been assisting with the WL work for non-ag and crop land certification.

Howard County is one of the 5 counties in the Deer Creek-Sugar Creek watershed that has a 319 grant for practice implementation. We had 3 applicants and it is looking as if all three will receive funding. There is a waterway, heavy use pads for cattle, and cover crops with no-till equipment modification. They were ranked

and allocations were made on Monday. A question was asked about the number of acres receiving assistance. It is difficult to measure the acreage for heavy use pads. The waterway is less than an acre and the cover crop and no-till equals about 160 acres within the watershed and there will be additional acreage outside of the watershed.

Update on the RCPP grant. Kosciusko, Jasper, and Howard are involved but due to receiving less funding Howard will be the Control County for the first two years. This project targets the Henry Gilbert Ditch. There will be water quality monitoring along this ditch to determine measurements without changes to the farm ground along it. The other counties will be installing 2-stage ditches and cover crops. After the first two years of study the group may be able to request additional funding and Howard may then begin the installation of 2-stage ditch along with cover crops. A stakeholders meeting is planned for Tuesday, March 24 at 7 p.m. located at Merrell Brothers. The topics will be the 2-stage ditch, cover crops, and an explanation of the project.

### **ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

Calvin reported that he and Sarah have been working on engineering plans and working with our area tech team. Things are progressing slowly due to understaffing at the area level.

RC&D will be holding a technology workshop on August 26 at the Ivy Tech research area in Lafayette. More information will follow as the agenda is drafted. Topics will be technology related to soils, cover crops, and economics. They are planning to offer PARP credits.

Rene' reported that the tree sale is slow this year. We have a total of 42 orders and the last day to order is this Friday, March 13.

Rene' gave an update on the 2012 Clean Water Indiana Grant. April 30 is the final day of the grant. Discussion is still being held about whether to continue without grant funds and have the districts support the study. Carroll and Clinton county SWCD's would like to see our report from Josh before they make a decision. We will be doing the final soil testing as soon as the weather gets fit and the ground warms up.

Ag Day will be held on Tuesday, March 24 at the fairgrounds. We will be conducting the soils station, planting a green bean seed and discussing the important role soil plays in our lives.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

We received the invoice for a space at the 4-H Fair. It is \$562.50. Shane moved to pay the invoice to reserve the space for the fair. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

Rene' presented the claims to be paid. Shane moved to allow payment of claims, Susan seconded, motion carried.

### **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Rene' presented the information she received from Mapping Solutions and answers to the questions that were brought up at the February meeting. After reviewing the sample books and discussion, Shane made a motion to move forward with the consignment contract, purchasing the first 50 books outright with the option of consignment for future books. Steve seconded, motion passed.

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: \_\_\_\_\_