

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Tuesday, February 19, 2013

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Shane Campbell, Chairperson. Others attending were Michelle Gilbert, Kerry Smith, Calvin Hartman, Sarah Brichford, Glenn Stephens, and Rene' Weaver. Steve Byrum and Jim Stites were absent.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion was held about officer election. Shane moved to nominate Steve Byrum for Vice-Chairman, Michelle seconded, motion carried. Michelle moved to retain Shane Campbell as Chairperson, Glenn seconded, motion carried. Shane moved to retain Jim as secretary, Glenn seconded, motion carried. The committees will be selected at the March meeting.

The next meeting will be held on Monday March 18, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. (Date changed due to Ag Day on March 19.

Rene' reviewed the mail. Thank you from John Martino and IASWCD requesting success stories for 2011.

Each year we must designate who may sign on behalf of the district for the contribution agreement with NRCS. Rene' has prepared a document that states the Chairperson, Office Manager, and/or District Resource Conservationist may sign. Michelle moved to designate the three named above to have signing authority, Shane seconded, motion carried. Document was signed by supervisors.

The RC&D is requesting a name as the district's designated representative. Shane moved to retain Calvin Hartman as our representative, Glenn seconded, motion carried. Document was signed by supervisors.

Overall opinion of the annual meeting was good. Liked the laid back family oriented format. Invitations were a good idea and should be used again. Good diversity of guests which is something we were striving for.

AGENCY REPORTS:

COUNTY STORMWATER – Sarah thanked the district for allowing the Stormwater district to partner with the meeting. Inspections are improving. There is some software glitches that need worked out and she will work with Calvin on this. She attended an L-Tap drainage conference at Purdue last week. A lot of interesting information learned, one being a new way to green roof with trays providing less weight and easier to maintenance.

Darrough Chapel project is still trying to get the 80% hook up. The city has agreed to spread the tap fee over a period of payments that would be paid with the sewer bill. Hopefully this will encourage more landowners to hook onto the system.

A two-stage workshop is planned for March 19 and 20 here in Kokomo.

SWCD – Calvin has been doing some surveying and design work. He has been having computer problems and is in the process of getting it resolved.

FSA- Kerry reported for Lisa. Currently sign up is taking place for ACRE and Direct Counter Cyclical Payments. Calvin mentioned there will be no advanced payments; they will be in October only. This is due to the continuation of the current farm bill. Adjusted Gross Income forms must be completed by each entity that has any business with FSA.

FSA has received authorization to make payments for existing CRP. They are not authorized for work on re-enrolls or new requests.

PURDUE EXTENSION – Paul was not available.

NRCS- Kerry reported that there is a hard hiring freeze within NRCS. There may be budget cuts forthcoming towards the end of the fiscal year. The chief does not foresee layoffs or RIFS. Currently key positions that are vacant are on hold.

Kerry handed out information from RMA about crop insurance and cover crops.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

MRBI- Michelle reported that the MRBI is over and there is not additional funding at this time. She reported that 23,000 acres were treated thru MRBI, over 2 million dollars. She is assisting the D.C.'s within the MRBI watershed with EQIP applications, attending annual meetings, and doing planning.

NRCS – CSP payments are made. Several modifications to contracts were needed due to wind turbines and waterways. Modifications take a great deal of time. EQIP sign up is going well. We have 16 and 4 of those will be ranked and reviewed in the first round. The remaining applications will go into the Drought Recovery fund. The second round should be selected around March 22.

There is no WHIP (Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program) due to no funding.

Kerry has been also working on 1026 and wetland requests. 6 non-ag were completed and 10 for cropland. He has approximately 20-25 more to be processed.

RC&D – There is a meeting this afternoon. Planning for an Indiana Master Naturalist Program will take place. It is planned to be held in Flora during the day. Dates to be determined. As we receive more information we will notify everyone.

Soon Calvin will be working with participants in the On-Farm Network program. Clean Water Indiana grants: Still have funds available for cover crop seed cost-share thru the Tipton grant. The 2012 cover crop research grant is ongoing. Paul Marcellino is working on compiling the information that we have to date.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Rene' had two requests to purchase materials. The first one being the Weed identification guide for no-till to be used as a handout at the cover crop field day in March and the soil health workshop in June. Michelle moved that we purchase 200 of the guides, Shane seconded, motion carried. The second is to purchase the 2 DVD set of the Dust Bowl by Ken Burns. This is an excellent documentary that was on the PBS channel. We can use

this as an education tool and have available to loan out to teachers and clubs for viewing. Shane moved to purchase the DVD set, Glenn seconded, motion carried.

All claims were presented for payment. Michelle moved to allow the payment of claims as presented. Shane seconded, motion carried. Supervisors signed the accounts payable register.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The cover crop field day will take place on Thursday, March 21 beginning at 8:30 a.m. rain, snow, or shine. It will be at Glenn Stephen's property. Speakers confirmed are Cameron Mills from Cass County. He will talk about economics, selection, and termination of cover crops. Mike Wigginton, NRCS Resource soil scientist will have pits dug at the cover crop site and also warm season grass site. Calvin and Kerry are still trying to contact someone that would be able to talk about experience with manure and cover crops.

Marketing will be thru personal invitations with RSVP request, website, and newsletter. We anticipate 20-30 participants.

Plans are also underway for the 4th annual cover crop workshop in Tipton at the fairgrounds. A planning meeting has been held and the date is set for Friday, June 28, 2013. Some topics are preparing for weather extremes, nitrogen management, cover crop management, residue management, farmer panel, and equipment. This event is still in the planning stages.

Geneva mentioned the upcoming soil health workshops on March 21 and March 22. Day one will be a "train the trainer" type workshop. Day 2 will allow newly trained individuals to present to the farmers.

Calvin mentioned starting to look into purchasing a new district vehicle. The current truck was purchased in 2001. It has low miles but we need to think about something with 4-wheel drive, and more seating room. Calvin will begin looking and get bids.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver _____

WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.

_____ DATE: _____