

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Tuesday, May 21, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.
1103 S. Goyer Road, Kokomo, IN 46902-2777

9:25 a.m. Introductions were made to County Council member Stan Ortman and the board welcomed him. Agency reports were given until Michelle arrived to run the meeting.

AGENCY REPORTS:

FSA - Rene' reported for Lisa and FSA. There is a general CRP sign up going on now thru the middle of June. This differs from continuous CRP as general target sensitive cropping areas such as highly erodible ground. FSA is now able to process continuous CRP applications and re-enrolls. Calvin mentioned that we have also received the new soil rental rates and they are very competitive.

COUNTY STORMWATER - Sarah Brichford of the Stormwater District was unable to attend but called and had a couple of items she wanted to share. Inspections for Rule 5 sites are moving along nicely. She is getting a much better response from the contractors than ever before. The Stormwater District will hold a rain garden workshop at the Howard County fairgrounds on Saturday, June 1 beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 11:00 a.m. The location is in front of the First Farmers Bank & Trust building. They will actually install a rain garden on the site. This year the Stormwater District will have a fair booth located outside of the tennis center. They will be holding demonstrations and have speakers throughout the week.

NRCS – Kerry reported that we had 7 EQIP applications accepted for contract. 5 were for cover crops, 1 was a tree planting and the other a pit closure. Out of the 5 for cover crops, one declined.

The tillage transect date is Tuesday, June 4 for Howard County. Tipton's is scheduled for June 3. Kerry said that this year if there was a cover crop on the field it needs to be recorded.

It is time again for a Local Work Group meeting to rank resource concerns. It was decided that it will take place beginning at 8:15 a.m. on June 11. The SWCD meeting will follow the Local Work Group meeting.

Evan reported that he just returned from North Carolina where he had Civil Rights Training.

At this time Michelle Gilbert arrived and the meeting was called to order. Those attending were Kerry Smith, Evan Smith, Glenn Stephens, Paul Marcellino, Stan Ortman, Calvin Hartman, Jim Stites, and Rene' Weaver. Shane Campbell arrived a bit later. Steve Byrum was absent.

Jim made a motion to approve the April minutes. Glenn seconded, motion carried and minutes were signed.

The next meeting as stated above will be on Tuesday, June 11 (one week early) due to vacations. The Local Work Group meeting will begin at 8:15 a.m. and the SWCD meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

We continued with Agency Reports.

EXTENSION – They have been extremely busy with school programs which are beginning to wind down. Paul thanked the SWCD for their help with Earth Day and the Sycamore School Earth Day Program. Extension and SWCD worked together for both. Paul has been working with the CWI cover crop grant and 4-H sign up. He is also on the long term flood recovery committee which held a meeting last night. This is something that is going

to take some time it is not a quick fix. The Horticulture Lite program was a huge success and he has a waiting list for the next one. He would also like to have a Master Gardeners Program before the end of the year.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

MRBI – Michelle reported that she assisted with the cover crop samples and was in four counties in one week! She is currently working on job sheets for the EQIP cover crop contracts. The Water Blitz was completed on May 10.

RC&D – There is a meeting this afternoon. The Walton Grant request was denied. The next item is the Soil Health field day at the Beck Center in Lafayette on Friday, August 30. There will also be a 5 County Soil Health field day on Friday, June 28 at the Tipton County fairgrounds.

CWI – Rene’ reported that all soil and plant samples have been sent and we have received all of the reports from A&L Lab. Nothing from Cornell yet. She has been forwarding the reports to the respective counties when she receives them. She will also forward to Paul so he can begin to create an overall report.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Rene’ presented the claims for payment. Michelle moved to approve the claims as presented. Jim seconded, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Calvin is going to hold off on the I Pad. After talking with Stormwater District it is uncertain at this time if they will be reapplying for their permit and this makes the future of the County MS4 questionable. This is due to the current annexation plans that the city has. As more of the county is annexed into the city, it makes the county MS4 area smaller creating less fees being collected to fund the program. We will wait to see what decisions are made in regards to the Stormwater District.

Rene’ passed out the report for the 2013 Tree Sale. Overall the number of pre-orders remained steady but the overall totals sales was less making the profit margin smaller. Several ideas were discussed: Partnering with multiple counties on tree orders to maintain the lower rates, selling just plants, every other year, etc. Michelle said that she is in favor of continuing the sale. The profit we do receive helps to defer the cost of educational materials and other expenses that the district may incur. Rene’ would like to meet with the Forestry Committee in August. She will contact them to set up a time.

We are currently out of the Winter Survival Food Plot Mix. Shane moved to allow the purchase of two 25# bags, Michelle seconded, motion carried. Glenn said to hold off on ordering until he checks into it. He may be able to get seed donated to the district.

Rene’ handed out a Business Plan Template and a Power Point talking about a business plan. This is something that we must get completed. Rene’ suggested contacting Geneva Rawlins, our district support specialist to see if she would be available to come to the office and meet with the board to assist in getting the plan completed. We currently have a plan; it just needs some updating and revisions. The board agreed this would be a good idea. Rene’ will contact Geneva and get possible dates she would be available to meet. Preferably around the first of August for a meeting time.

Michelle mentioned the 4-H Fair and activity. Soil Health was the theme and it was decided that we would give out cover crop seed for individuals to plant in their gardens this fall. Evan offered to make a box to plant a

cover crop in so you can see the root system. Kerry also suggested contacting Jasper County and Mike Wigginton and using clear tubes. Paul offered to make up sheets with information for planting a cover crop in a garden. We then have the worms for the kids and new ink pens.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver _____

WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.

_____ DATE: _____