

MINUTES  
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting  
Tuesday, February 18, 2014

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Shane Campbell at 9:00 a.m. Present were Michelle Gilbert, Calvin Hartman, Glenn Stephens and Rene' Weaver. Steve Byrum and Kerry Smith arrived later. Absent was Susan Kirkpatrick due to a prior commitment.

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

Due to the weather we did not follow the order of the agenda. Shane had to leave at 10:00 a.m. and Steve was late arriving.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The normal scheduled meeting date conflicts with Ag Day. It was decided that the next meeting will be held on Monday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m.

There will be an SWCD region meeting held on Thursday, March 13 beginning at 5:30 in West Lafayette. Rene' invited supervisors to attend. She will need to know ASAP to make the reservations. The cost is \$20 per person. Dinner is included. Michelle moved to allow the payment for staff and supervisors who would like to attend. Shane seconded, motion carried.

Rene' reviewed the annual meeting expenses. She recommended that we send a check for \$85.00 to Fred Whitford. This will cover his mileage and give him a little extra for his services. Shane moved to pay Fred Whitford (thru Purdue University \$85.00), Glenn seconded. Motion carried.

Rene' discussed with the supervisors the materials she would like to order for Ag Day and Earth Day. The materials are from NACD. It is this year's Stewardship material. "Dig Deeper" Soil is Alive! She also talked about making up a teacher education pack to be given away to one teacher at Ag Day and one teacher at Earth Day. Michelle moved to allow \$800 towards the purchases of supplies for Ag and Earth Day. Glenn seconded, motion carried. Rene' presented the claims for payment in addition to the ones already mentioned. Shane moved to approve the claims, Glenn seconded, motion carried.

Rene' discussed financial support for Earth Day. The district has contributed in past years. Shane moved to allow up to \$300 towards Earth Day. Michelle seconded, motion carried. Rene' will contact Mikki and see how they are on funding and expenses.

During the CWI grant meeting soil probes were discussed. Since soil samples are taking as part of the research, soil probes are used to go as deep as 24". This can sometimes be difficult especially if the soil is dry. There is a soil probe that works like a ratchet and is much easier to use. The cost of the probe is \$397.00 and would be a covered expense through the Clean Water Indiana Grant. Extension would also like to order one the same time we do. This would save on shipping charges. Shane moved to allow \$400 plus shipping towards the purchase of a soil probe. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

We are required yearly to designate a depository for district funds. Michelle moved to continue to use First Farmers Bank & Trust. Shane seconded, motion carried.

Calvin requested additional lighting for under his workstation. Glenn recommended that if we are going to purchase the lighting for one we should go ahead and do all of them. Shane moved to approve \$120 to purchase lighting for 3 workstations, Michelle seconded, motion carried.

Rene' passed out a flier for the upcoming Green Festival to be held in April at the Galveston Park. The district will have a booth. The committee is requesting something to do with ground water. Calvin recommended that we contact Indiana American Water to see if we could use their display that they have used at the W.E. event. Michelle mentioned a booklet or brochure from IDEM (she thinks) that talks about ground water.

We have received the CREP contract. There is still funding available for landowner incentives that are located in the Middle Wabash-Deer watershed. Michelle suggested that we have information at the Green Festival about the CREP program. Rene' will work with Sarah Lake on this.

At this time, Shane had to leave and Steve arrived and took over the meeting as vice-chairperson.

### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

EXTENSION – Rene' read the report from Paul. (See attached)

COUNTY STORMWATER – Sarah was unable to be at the meeting but called Rene' yesterday. She wanted to thank the district for allowing Stormwater to partner on the annual meeting. They were very pleased with how it went. The current memorandum of understanding with the county for Stormwater has expired. This is something that we need to get up to date. Stormwater will be working on this. Pre-construction meetings will now be held on any project before construction begins. The software issues are still there. No news when they will be fixed.

SWCD – Calvin gave a report on the No-Till conference. He learned several new things on the horizon for no-till corn and beans. He also mentioned that strip-till usage may be the first step in going no-till and incorporating the components of soil health. Glenn suggested that we get in contact with a local farmer who is using strip till and have them attend one of the small field days we have planned.

FSA – Lisa reported that we now have a Farm Bill. The first programs on their roster will be Livestock Disaster. The other programs have not been officially announced but information may be found on the web. Currently her staff is working on recons of farms and farm changes along with updating CRP information from last fiscal year.

NRCS – Kerry reiterated information concerning the Farm Bill. EQIP and WHIP are now under the same program, EQIP with at least 5% of the funding to go towards WHIP. The easement programs will now be under the Ag Conservation Easement Program rather than separate programs. The Conservation Stewardship Program continues as a part of the new farm bill. All work for EQIP has been suspended until more details are known. We currently have 6 sign ups and 3-4 are interested.

There are 68 CRP contracts up for re-enroll. They are waterways and filter strips. We have one new CSP application for a forestry project. All CSP payments are made with the exception of 3 that required modifications. These will be made soon. The wetland requests stand at 13 and the non-ag request 2-3. John Young, District Conservationist from Cass County has been helping Kerry out with these. Once the weather gets fit, Kerry will be able to get out and do these.

**ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

Calvin reported that he has 6 designs ready. He has training in Lebanon and will be taking 3 of the plans to be signed off from the area engineer. The other three he has a few items to look over.

Calvin attended a meeting with Stormwater and DNR concerning an area of flooding that has been a concern to several citizens. Greg plans to schedule a meeting with the landowners to discuss their concerns.

Kerry handed out new guide sheets from NRCS that talk about soil health and all the components that go along with it. Soil health is something that does not happen overnight or over a one year period. It is something that develops over a period of time using such things as no-till and cover crops.

Calvin reported that there is an RC&D meeting this afternoon in Lafayette. Invoices for dues should be arriving soon. Rene' recommended that we try and set up a meeting with the county commissioners or at least the president to talk about their representation on the RC&D board. We will work on getting this done.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:**

See the information above for financial report and claims.

**OTHER BUSINESS:**

Calvin and Rene' met with Benjamin Davis and he has resigned his position with the district. This was an amicable separation, with both parties realizing that the job could not be performed effectively due to Bens' current work schedule.

The District Operations committee (Shane and Steve) needs to meet with Calvin and Rene' to review the job description so that we can send it to the county to be advertised. Depending on the candidates, we might have to divide the part-time funding into two separate positions; one for Rule 5 and one to assist with marketing and education activities. A meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 11 at 9:00 a.m. here at the office to begin this process.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver \_\_\_\_\_

***WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.***

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

## **EXTENSION REPORT**

### **AGNR:**

Master Gardner Program half way through.

Horticulture Lite course development underway and will start this spring.

Bee keeping class was successful with 40 in attendance.

Paul will present a Land Lease program in Wabash and for a PNC bank meeting.

He is working with Succession Team on different programs. Maple Farms was the guest farm family panel at the Beck Center and did a great job.

Annie's Project is a program for farm women that cover farm management, record keeping, risk management, and marketing. It begins on February 27.

The CWI meeting for cover crops went well. All counties were represented and Ben Rinehart did an excellent job with the data. This was the first data we have put together on the grant. We will be pulling additional information as time goes which will benefit our farmers.

### **4-H:**

Ag Day is March 18. Slots are almost full. We may have to turn schools away or try adding something on.

4-H enrollment ended on February 17<sup>th</sup>. Late enrollment will have to go through educator.

Lots of great opportunities for 4-H members through the different programs Purdue and National 4-H have to offer. We would like to have more participation from our 4-H members. The exhibit board is generously funding many of these opportunities making it very affordable for kids to attend these programs.

Beef weigh in is February 22, 2014.

People need to read their newsletters because there are changes especially with livestock intended for state fair.

Lego league group from Kokomo Middle school were helped by Paul and used information from 4-H project curriculum to do a presentation on restoration of the flood area in Kokomo. They placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the state and will be going to international competition in Toronto.

### **HHS:**

Susie has been doing Serve Safe programming that all food establishments and organizations that serve food have to have a least one person that is certified.

She has been teaching Professor Popcorn a nutritional program for grade school children.

Susie is working on the Earth and Ag Day events.

Respectfully submitted by

Paul Marcellino, Extension Educator AgNR/County Extension Director

