

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2014

Meeting called to order by Chairperson Shane Campbell at 9:05 a.m. Present were Supervisor candidate Susan Kirkpatrick, Kerry Smith, Glenn Stephens, Jim Stites, Paul Marcellino, Sarah Brichford, and Rene' Weaver. Michelle Gilbert was absent.

Jim made a motion to approve the December minutes as written. Glenn seconded and motion carried. All supervisors signed the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS:

The February meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 18 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Rene' let each supervisor know that they are to take some calendars with them when they leave to distribute.

Rene' explained the change in postage procedure. SWCD will no longer be sharing a postage meter with NRCS and FSA. Both agencies have decided to go with their own. We will go back to using postage stamps. We do get funds from the county for postage. In the past I file the claim and have a check made out to FSA. I will now purchase the postage and send a claim to the auditor for reimbursement.

A gentleman called last week and gave the district a compliment on the soil health videos we have on the website and You Tube.

Calvin was not available to give a report on the No-Till conference. He will give a report at the February meeting.

Rene' talked about the part-time position and the possibility of getting someone new to do the Rule 5 plan reviews and on-site evaluations. Calvin has been doing the work but once spring gets here he will be doing surveys and lay-outs. Ben Davis who has been employed part-time since 2006 has a new job that does not allow him to be available during normal work hours to meet with contractors on the site. Stormwater is also working on setting up pre-construction meetings which would also require someone to be available during normal work hours (8-4). It would be nice to get someone hired and possibly find someone who would assist the district with the website, newsletters, and education. Shane moved to set up a meeting with Ben and see what he wants to do. Steve seconded, motion carried. Once that meeting has taken place, the board will then decide which direction they wish to go with the position or positions.

Rene' has talked with the personnel office and if we decide to hire someone the position must be advertised thru the county before we can interview and hire.

AGENCY REPORTS:

FSA – Lisa was having a County Committee meeting and was not available to give a report.

EXTENSION – Paul has started another Master Gardner program. He has 20 people taking the class. He did a soils presentation for the Master Gardener group in Carroll County. There will be a 4-H kickoff breakfast Saturday. Due to the weather the bee keeping program has been re-scheduled to February 11.

Paul has talked with Representative Mike Karickhoff about doing some type of tree program this spring. Representative Karickhoff receives 100 trees from the state nursery and he would like for Extension to utilize

the trees in some way. Paul has asked if the district would like to partner with Extension on the event. Representative VanNetter also receives 100 trees so we would have a total of 200 trees to work with. Ideas were tossed around on how to best distribute them. Susan suggested maybe planting some of them on the fairgrounds. She will talk with Bryan and see if that would be a possibility. Shane mentioned that Eastern has a KEY club and they might be interested. Other ideas were environmental clubs and 4-H. Rene' also mentioned working with The Crossing. Paul and Rene' will put their heads together and see what they can get arranged.

NRCS- Kerry presented the signed copy of the Memorandum of Understanding for NRCS and SWCD. He reported that EQIP sign up runs through February 21. Currently we have 6 applications for cover crops, pit closure, and brush management. CSP payments are being made for January. December payments were made on time. Taking new sign-ups for CSP until February 7. We have one new sign up for Forestry. He is catching up on the wetland determinations. He has 3 sites to be visited in Howard County.

COUNTY STORMWATER – Sarah discussed the flooding letter that was sent to multiple agencies. Stormwater district and surveyor are currently researching the flood events. There is a meeting on February 4 at 10:00 a.m. in Room 338 with the agencies whom were sent the letter. There will also be a DNR hydrologist present. A public meeting will take place at a later date. A Stormwater meeting will be held this afternoon. Sarah mentioned an upcoming workshop in Hamilton County for contractors that work with Rule 5.

SWCD – Rene' reported that she has been working on annual meeting plans, invitations, and report. Calvin has been working on design work and attended the No-Till Conference last week.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

NO REPORTS

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Rene' presented the claims to be paid this month. Jim moved to allow claims as presented. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Annual meeting plans are coming together. Invitations are out and work is being done on the program. Rene' went over the schedule for the evening. It is to start at 5:00 p.m. so everyone should plan to arrive at 4:30. Michelle will take the lead on the election. If there are no nominations from the floor, we will take a vote by a show of hands. Rene' requested that Glenn and Jim handle the door prizes during the break.

Kerry talked about holding an outdoor cover crop meeting in March. There will be a pit open to look at the root system and termination tips will be the topic. Since the meeting was on the west side last year, he is suggesting it be on the east side this year. The supervisors talked about the best time and it was decided that maybe the first week of April might be better. It will not matter if the top is not growing; the root system is what will be looked at. Shane moved to go ahead with plans to hold a cover crop meeting on Wednesday, April 2. Steve seconded, motion carried.

Rene' discussed the Clean Water Indiana grant that we have with Tipton County for cover crops. 2013 was the final year and earlier the board had agreed to contribute an additional \$2000 to cover all applications received. Tipton County SWCD is also putting in \$2000. Rene' talked with Anita and the amount we are short totals \$2169.00 for Howard County's share. Steve moved to allow payment of the \$2169.00 to Tipton County for the cover crop cost-share. Shane seconded, motion carried. Rene' will notify Anita.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver _____

WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.

_____ DATE: _____