

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

Meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Chairperson Shane Campbell. Those present were Susan Kirkpatrick, Mell Nevils, Michelle Gilbert, Glenn Stephens, Kerry Smith, and Rene' Weaver. Steve Byrum was absent.

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

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16 at 9:00 a.m. Lunch will be at the Half Moon at 11:00 a.m. Please let Rene' know how many will be coming with you so she can turn in the reservations.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

FSA – Lisa was unable to attend the meeting.

EXTENSION - Paul was unable to attend the meeting.

NRCS – Kerry gave an update on programs. EQIP applications are being accepted for the 1<sup>st</sup> round of funding until December 19, 2014. It is anticipated that all the funds will be allocated during the first round and therefore no second round will be offered. He must have everything loaded in the system by the deadline but no ranking will take place until after the first of the year. Anticipated allocation date is April 1, 2015.

For CSP we have twelve 2010 contracts eligible for re-enrollment. Each applicant will go through an interview and be re-ranked and have a re-evaluation for payment purposes. Each applicant will be required to adopt a new conservation activity. The contracts will be for 5 years and the deadline is December 15 so Kerry is working on these now.

There are 58 re-enrolls for CRP. Most of the contracts are filter strips and waterways. There is one for a riparian buffer. Once CSP and EQIP deadlines are met work will begin on CRP. There is still a backlog of wetland requests. Chris Torp has been assisting Kerry with the field work.

Two handouts were passed around. One was for a planter clinic the other for a website for landowners. Discussion was held about soil health and how it is not something that happens overnight. It is a long process but the wait is worth it to have longevity of the soils.

Kerry talked about a new website to be launched next month and introduced in January called "Client Gateway". It will allow individuals to track payment and program activity. It will be a 2-step program to enroll. Step one will be to verify that the individual is a farm of record with FSA and information is in SCIMS. The second step will be to acquire level 2 authority and it is similar to obtaining a DUNS number. NRCS is currently looking for volunteer individuals to use the system before the January roll out.

SWCD MS4 – Mell reported on his activities. There are several projects under construction that require site visits and he has been doing several plan reviews. He is working with the Stormwater District to hold a builders workshop and possibly a contractor workshop.

## **ACTIVITY REPORTS:**

Rene' reported that RC&D is currently having an IN Master Naturalist Program held in Clinton County.

Rene' has been working on updating the tree order forms and will prepare to mail them out in January.

Rene' reported that we were not successful in securing a 2015 Clean Water Indiana grant. The current 2012 grant for cover crop research will end in April of 2015. It has been discussed with four or the five districts to continue the testing on the plots for an additional three years using district funds. It is roughly estimated that each of the 4 districts would contribute \$5,600 per year for 3 years. Shane moved to allow the district to proceed with the testing and data collection on a year by year evaluation with the goal of continuing for 3 years. This is contingent with the other counties full participation. Glenn seconded, motion carried. It was discussed some of the options that may be able to be removed or amounts lowered to reduce the amount each county would have to put up to continue.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

Rene' presented all claims for payment. One additional claim was added. \$50 to Tipton SWCD for ½ of a payment received from Soybean Assoc. Michelle moved to approve claims as presented. Susan seconded, motion carried.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

Annual Meeting updates. Our Conservationist Award has declined the award. Board needs to select another person. Shane moved to select Bob & Betsy Hoshaw, Michelle seconded, motion carried.

Our speaker had to cancel so we are back to the beginning. Rene' has sent an email to Ted McKinney, ISDA Director. She sent in on Friday, Nov. 14 and has not heard from him. She will call him this week. If he is not available the board agreed to have her contact Tom Turpin from Purdue University.

Glenn will run for supervisor for an additional three year term but noted that his time may be limited. He agreed to be placed on the ballot. Rene' will get the form completed before the December 1 deadline.'

We need to select someone to represent the district at the business meeting at annual conference. Shane agreed to put his name down and Michelle will serve as the alternate.

Rene' passed around a sample of the 2015 calendar put together with Stormwater District which Sarah Brichford said "Thank You" to the district for partnering.

The plat book company Athentic, Inc. will be closing this month. The plat books we have on hand are all we will have for some time. Rene' has been researching different options. Two companies that produce such a book do not have Howard County. One company does not have Howard Co. at all and the other company has a 1964 book. It looks as if we would be starting from the beginning. She will continue to look into it.

Calvin wanted to know what the supervisors would like for him to do with the toolbox that came off of the old truck. It is not needed on the new truck and he doesn't think it would even fit. He can do what he wants with it.

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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

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

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