

MINUTES
Howard County SWCD Supervisor's Meeting
Thursday, February 26, 2015

The meeting was called to order by Shane Campbell, Chairperson at 1:35 p.m. Those present were Glenn Stephens, Michelle Gilbert, Calvin Hartman, and Rene' Weaver. Susan Kirkpatrick and Steve Byrum were absent.

Glenn moved to approve the minutes of the January meeting as presented. Shane seconded, motion carried and minutes were signed.

Election of officers and committee assignments was tabled until the March meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

The March meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 17 at 9:00 a.m.

Rene' presented the mail. Letter from Jennifer Tank from Notre Dame in reference to the RCPP. Howard County will be the control ditch for this program. She shared information compiled by Sarah Lake in regards to sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen saved through the conservation programs.

Calvin shared information from the 2015 No-Till Conference and requested permission to register for the 2016 conference which will be held in Indianapolis. Shane made a motion to approve Calvin to register for the 2016 No-Till Conference. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

Annual meeting went well. We had a total of 63 people attend. The board is always looking for ways to improve the meeting.

Rene' presented information from two companies offering plat books. Mapping Solutions offers consignment opportunities and Rockford Publications does not. We can start with a number of 50 books and see how they sell from Mapping Solutions. There was questions that Rene' was unable to answer and offered to contact the Mapping Solutions sales rep to find the answers. This action was tabled until the March meeting to allow time to get the answers.

AGENCY REPORTS:

NRCS, EXTENSION, and MS4 was not available

FSA – Lisa reported that they are working on the yield and base adjustments. The deadline in February 27 and they are keeping a log because they are unable to get all producers in before that deadline. The next process is the election which will begin next month. CRP has taken a backseat until this farmbill signup is complete. They are not able to do re-cons until summer.

There is a joint FSA/NRCS meeting next week to discuss Farm Bill procedures.

Calvin has been doing engineering work and with that has come a lot of frustration. He has had to make multiple changes for one project. He has also sent out a cost-estimate survey and will compile that information to get an average cost and send it out to those contractors who sent the survey back. This survey was sent prior to the contractor's breakfast that we held in Peru jointly with Miami and Wabash counties.

Mell had cataract surgery on Wednesday. He is working with the Stormwater District planning a homebuilders workshop.

ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Shane moved to accept Calvin Hartman as our 2015 delegate for the Wabash River RC&D. Michelle seconded and motion carried. Dues of \$300 are due. This is the total amount, \$100 each for the SWCD, Extension, and County Commissioners. The SWCD has always picked up the total amount of \$300. Michelle moved that the district pay \$300 for the 2015 RC&D dues. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

We have a total of 8 tree orders. Forms need to be distributed. Please take them with you.

The group met last week to discuss the final testing required for the CWI grant and the continuation of the grant without outside funding. Rene' is working on information to give to the other counties that will contain cost of the test and cost of a field coordinator for one year. This information will be used when discussing with SWCD boards to decide whether to continue the testing.

There are three education opportunities coming up in the next few months. The first one being Ag Day which is March 24 at the fairgrounds. We will be presenting the soil station. This year we will have the kids plant a green bean seed. They sprout better than basil seeds and are easier to work with.

The next event will be Earth Day on April 22 at the civic center. We will be partnering with Extension doing circles of the earth.

The last event is the library kickoff on June 1 at the south branch library. Rene' requested approval to purchase bookmarks for the events. She would like to make "dirt dough" for the library event and put a small amount into a snack back along with one of the rubber earth worms we have used at the fair. She estimates bookmarks to be around \$200.00 and if she has to purchase worms they would be around \$100. Shane moved to approve a total of \$350 for the purchase of materials to be used at the above mentioned education events. Glenn seconded, motion carried.

FINANCIAL REPORT:

Rene' ordered 2,000 marking flags and is suggesting that we increase the cost per bundle. We are currently selling them for \$8.00 per 100 and it is actually costing us \$9-10 per bundle with shipping. Michelle moved to increase flag price to \$10.00 per 100, Glenn seconded, motion carried.

Calvin and Rene' have been researching laptop options for Mell. It looks as if we can get a laptop, monitor, wireless keyboard, mouse, case, software, and cable to use with the projector for approximately \$1,500. Shane move to approve a budget not to exceed \$2,000 for the purchase of a laptop and accessories. Michelle seconded motion carried.

Rene' presented the claims for payment. Michelle moved that all claims be paid as presented. Shane seconded, motion carried.

OTHER BUSINESS:

There being no additional business, the meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Minutes recorded and written by Rene' Weaver _____

WE AGREE THAT THE ABOVE MINUTES ARE ACCURATE.

_____ DATE: _____