

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
2/5/2020
SWCD Office- 5:00 pm

Executive Session:

The supervisors met to discuss and vote on a rate change for the Educator position. Laura moved that the hourly rate for the Educator be raised \$1 per hour retroactive to Jan. 1, 2020. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Mini Grant Presentation: Decker

The Decker family presented their proposal for a heavy use area pad (HUAP) and a rain garden on their property. The family has a small cattle farm that is causing soil erosion. A HUAP will be installed in one grazing area to allow for vegetation regrowth. A rain garden will also be put outside the fencing where water runoff is occurring. The Decker's are planning to create two more fenced areas and establish a rotational grazing system.

SWCD Monthly Board Meeting

The meeting was brought to order at 5:20 pm by chair Scott Stephenson. Those in attendance were as follows: Jim Allen, Cara Bergschneider, Bonnie Closey, Courtney McGuckin, Amanda Perkins, Allison Shoaf, Scott Stephenson, Al Weber, and Laura Young.

Allison added "Educator Timesheet Error" to the agenda.

Allison added "Monthly Board Meeting Schedule" to the agenda.

Al made a motion to accept the January minutes as is. Laura seconded. Motion passed. The minutes were signed by the board members.

Laura made a motion to accept the January Financial Report and Claims. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

CWI: We will begin advertising soon for the 2020 CWI cover crop grants.

Annual Plan of Work: Our annual meeting is next month with our monthly board meeting immediately before it. Laura and Bonnie will meet soon to conduct the internal audit. The Composting Workshop is March 19th at 6pm in the Community Room.

2020 BCSWCD Annual Meeting: The annual meeting is on March 4th at the Brown County History Center at 6pm with speaker Amy Spalding of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Board members signed up for soups to bring for dinner. Laura will bring homemade bread. Information about the

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meeting has been shared in the paper and flyers are being posted around town. Laura will read for the elections at the meeting and Jerry Pittman will do the swearing in.

Native Plant Garden: Allison and Amanda picked up the cedar lumber. Allison will communicate a date soon for a work day.

IASWCD Annual Conference: Allison and Al attended the IASWCD Annual Conference. (See "Manager's Updates" for Allison's review.) Al attended the delegate session for our board. He reported that all three resolutions were passed.

Summer Intern: Allison has received three resumes so far for the intern position. The deadline is March 3rd.

New Business:

Educator Timesheet Error: While preparing tax information, it was noticed that Courtney was paid twice for one pay period in 2019. Courtney owes BC SWCD 17.5 hours of work. This will come out of the next 17.5 hours that Courtney works.

NRCS: After much discussion and many letters written, the local ranking system will stay the same. The new processing tool CART does allow for local 1-10 rankings unlike previously thought. No EQIP deadline has been announced yet, but Cara is predicting she may know in March or April. Eight applications have been turned in for Brown County with 7 "maybes" still in the works. The soil health trailer will be at the Indiana State Fair for 14 days. There will be a soil health trailer training for NRCS and partner groups, such as SWCDs, on March 11th. The trailer will also be at the Small Farms Conference. Cara will be doing demonstrations at the Horticulture Conference.

2020 Mini Grants: The cost for the Dixon project was adjusted and resubmitted. Laura made a motion to approve the proposal with a project cost of \$375. Amanda seconded. Motion passed. The CYO application was also fixed. Amanda made a motion to approve the proposal with a project cost of \$448. Al seconded. Motion passed. The board discussed the Decker grant proposal and had concerns about there being enough space for all the cattle. Laura made a motion to accept the rain garden part of the project at a cost of \$453.02. Al seconded. Motion passed.

BC Water Quality Studies: The Brown County Regional Seward District received a grant to study the water in the county. Their goal is to find the source for E. coli (human or animal).

FoLM 319 Grant: A sampling blitz will occur on April 24th to test water quality on the Lake Monroe Watershed. This will also test for E. coli but they will use DNA to find the species specific source. Allison attended the steering committee meeting for FoLM. The Watershed Coordinator is going to reach out to specific Brown County individuals to try to increase the county's presence in that committee.

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Manager's Updates: "January has been very busy! I've been doing a lot of annual planning- setting dates for workshops, having meetings, etc. The Ag Breakfast went really well and was again well attended. The meal made by the Homemakers was great and I really enjoyed that collaboration with them. I had a meeting with Bill Daniels and Dave Boeyink who want to start holding some workshops at the Nashville Community Garden. I offered to speak at a couple where I will promote our tools we have available for rent and our cover crop order. I have officially informed SICIM that I do not plan to remain their treasurer after my term is up in June. I am now the Nashville Tree Board president after Bruce Gould was not reappointed to the board. Also, I am now the secretary for BCNWP since George Turner is moving. I've been invited to attend the meetings of the newly formed environmental group in BC, Earth Rising. However, they meet in the evenings so I told them it is unlikely I'll be able to attend very often. I will be putting on a Kayak Spark Club in May with Parks & Rec and Extension. Lastly, I have a meeting scheduled with Dr. Hammack of Brown County Schools on Feb. 6 th . We will be discussing the possibility of an outdoor learning space on the school's campus. This project will tie in to my participation in the Grant Writing Workshop. I will be attending the Lakes Management Society Meeting on April 9th and 10th in Bloomington. The "Entering/Exiting Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District" highway signs have been completed by Eagle Manufacturing. Installation by INDOT is to be determined."

Annual Conference Summary: "I attended a session on Private Water Systems by Mike Sutton with IN State Dept. of Health and it was very informative! He really urges homeowners to test their well/pond/cistern at least once per year for bacteria and nitrates. His talk has motivated me to take a closer look at the water testing we recommend, how to properly do it, where to send it, etc. Also has motivated me to reach out to our health department to see how we can partner on these things. The ISDH is looking to partner with more SWCD's for educational opportunities including a sampling blitz program with schools. The other sessions I attended were good, but not as impactful. I did go to a Human Resource Management 101 training where they talked specifically about contract vs. regular employees. This gave me some good insight into our Educator position. Although that position will likely be long term and not necessarily project based, it still is acceptable to keep it as a contracted position because the position is task oriented and our Educator completes those tasks remotely."

Educator's Updates: "The newsletter went out in the middle of this month. I am working on the pollinator presentation that I will use at the schools to introduce the poster contest. All of the poster contest information has been added to our website and will be shared on FB soon. I attended the Native Woodlands planning meeting and met privately with Allison and Dan to discuss my BCNWP duties for the upcoming year. I am getting set up to manage the BCNWP FB page and website. I will be attending the Ag Breakfast with Allison."

Rule 5: There will be a new Stormwater Specialist for IDEM. Allison is checking on an ag land clearing.

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Monthly Board Meeting Schedule: BC SWCD monthly board meetings will be on the first Thursday of the month at 1pm effective starting April 2nd.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm. Motion was made by Laura and seconded by Amanda. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.