

**Minutes**  
**Brown County Soil & Water**  
**Conservation District**  
**2/21/18**  
**SWCD Office- 8:30 am**

January 17<sup>th</sup> monthly board meeting was cancelled due to weather. All agenda items deferred to February meeting.

The meeting was brought to order at 8:34 am by vice chair Bonnie Closey. Those in attendance were as follows: Bonnie Closey, Al Weber, Allison Shoaf, Keith Kirk, Cara Bergschneider, Scott Stephenson, and Amanda Perkins.

Al made a motion to accept the December minutes as corrected. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

Amanda made a motion to accept December and January Claims and Financial Reports. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: no updates to the 2018 Annual Plan of Work, 2017 Mini Grants are almost completed, we still have one project finishing up. SEED Brown County has been paid for their 2018 mini grant, and BCNWP is still waiting to ask for their funds. Allison mentioned that we have only allocated half the amount we typically award for mini grants and therefore should start thinking of a worth-while project to put that money towards. CWI Grant Remove, Replant, Restore is almost half way through. Interest is expected to pick back up in spring time. Al gave an update on the IASWCD Annual Conference that he and Scott both attended. Summary of 2018 resolutions:

1. Seeking additional funding avenues for SWCDs - Adopted
2. Feral Swine eradication - Adopted
3. SWCD Title Change - NOT adopted
4. Clean Water Indiana Funding Limitation Expansion – Adopted

Cara also mentioned that one speaker she heard at annual conference, Purdue Ag Econ Professor Otto Doering, was very good and we should keep him in mind for future events. Our annual meeting is set for Wednesday March 28<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, at the BC History Center. We will once again be offering homemade soups, bread, and desserts. Cara will be our guest speaker doing the soil microscope demonstration.

NRCS Update: the 2018 EQIP application round ends in mid-March, so far Cara has 40 total applications between Brown and Monroe. She anticipates 3 CSP applications and those are due March 2<sup>nd</sup>. She will be attending the Purdue Small Farm conference which takes place March 1-3 and encourages growers to attend. Cara will sit in on the National Planning for Conservation in Indiana this week. She updated us on her work with IU which includes: helping with planning and implementation of new student farm, reviewing a high tunnel handbook, and just completed a project with a Masters Student doing his thesis on conservation planning. Cara asked that we look to possibly move our meeting dates because she has many conflicts the next few months.

Supervisor binders were passed out, Cara offered to print civil rights document to add.

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Designation of Depository- Al made a motion that BCSWCD will continue to use People's State Bank for both checking and savings account. Amanda seconded, motion passed.

Board members were asked to review all BCSWCD policies between now and the next meeting.

Board members are invited to join Allison at the office to watch the ICP webinar on March 13<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

We have received 15 summer intern applications so far. The deadline to apply is March 15<sup>th</sup> and interviews will begin in April. Amanda volunteered to be on the hiring sub-committee, any other supervisors or associates willing to help should contact Allison. The job was posted on Purdue, IU, Franklin, and IUPUI/IUPUC job board. Also put in Democrat and posted on Facebook and Website.

The smartboard has been paid in-full using our county funds and is now being used in the Exhibit building for the Master Naturalist class.

Manager's Updates: Ag Day Breakfast was well attended (about 35 people). I really liked having the Jr. Leaders help out with food, made it feel like a community event. We also got good feedback about it being held on a Saturday and earlier in the year. I finished the AFR and other required reporting. The internal audit committee is staying after the meeting today to look over everything. The covercrop workshop that we co-sponsored with Morgan and Johnson Co SWCD's was very good. The master naturalist class has started and going well, we have 27 people registered. Part of the registration money was used to buy new items to improve the Exhibit Building for future programming. I attended the Indiana Invasive Species Council annual meeting where I presented on behalf of BCNWP. This sparked many good conversations with folks in other counties who are looking to start a similar group. I'll also be presenting at the Monroe Co. SWCD annual meeting on 2/24 about our CWI grant. I'll be taking the wildland fire refresher on 2/28 at the TNC office in Indy to maintain my red card certification. I'll also be attending the Eco-logic conference in Bloomington on 3/7, conference will be on building wildlife habitat. Lastly, the BCNWP have set a date and time for their annual program: Thursday March 15<sup>th</sup> at the BC Library 6-8 pm.

PSS/CRP Contribution Agreement- we will be getting paid for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter soon

Salt Creek Preservation Group Report- plan to burn old log pile this March, participating in Great American Clean up, will do survey in May, and collaborating with Parks and Rec for a cardboard boat regatta either on September 22<sup>nd</sup> or 29<sup>th</sup>

Rule 5- no update

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 AM. Motion was made by Amanda, and seconded by Al. Motion passed

Minutes taken and submitted by Allison Shoaf.

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