

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
4/18/18
SWCD Office- 8:30 am

March 21st monthly board meeting was cancelled due to weather. All agenda items deferred to April meeting.

The meeting was brought to order at 8:33 am by chair Laura Young. Those in attendance were as follows: Bonnie Closey, Al Weber, Allison Shoaf, Jeanne Shaw, Cara Bergschneider, Scott Stephenson, Nathan Stoelting, and Amanda Perkins.

Amanda made a motion to accept the February minutes. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Al made a motion to accept February and March Claims and Financial Reports. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: Our annual meeting was held on March 28th at the BC History center with 50 people in attendance. We heard great feedback on speaker Cara Bergschneider and soups. In the future, we need to research some places that will take our compostable dinnerware. One change to the 2018 Annual Plan of Work is there will be no Pond Management workshop in Brown County. Instead there will be one in Bartholomew County and that is where we are sending interested Brown County folks. 2017 Mini Grants are almost completed, we still have one project finishing up. We have now given them a final deadline of June. CWI Grant Remove, Replant, Restore is almost half way through and Allison has a lot of site visits scheduled in April. To date we have paid 2 Brown County landowners through the grant. Our hiring process for the intern is complete and we have an accepted offer. We started in January by placing ads on university job boards, our website, Facebook page, and Democrat. The deadline to apply was March 15th. We received over 20 resumes. After that the hiring committee, which consisted of Amanda, Laura, and Allison, pulled applications to be interviewed. Four individuals were interviewed on April 3rd. We had a very strong applicant pool and after thorough review a decision was made to hire Courtney McGuckin at \$10/hr. starting May 31st.

NRCS Update: 16 EQIP applications have been approved for funding just this past week so Cara is working on getting all those contracts signed for obligation. The DUNS and SAMS numbers are no longer required for entities applying for NRCS programs. This is a big change with both positives and negatives. The positive for it no longer being required is that it was very time consuming and challenging for some entities to get this number and maintain the status, plus a lot more work put on the DC and PSS to monitor. However, the negative is that the SAM (system awards management) kept the larger entities in check from receiving more than the allowable cap amount. Without this 3rd tier check system, there might be applicants who can maneuver the system. CRP new-enrollments are still on a nation pause and therefore Cara and Allison are not doing any work with those, only existing customers. Cara is entering the final stages of editing the IU high tunnel handbook.

We reviewed and signed the new NRCS Civil Rights checklist.

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Al made motion to pay IASWCD \$2,000 for the 2018 dues. Scott seconded. Motion approved.

Al made a motion to approve Laura Young as chair of the board and Scott Stephenson as vice chair. Amanda seconded. Motion approved.

Amanda made a motion to approve our district policies as presently written. Al seconded. Motion approved. These policies will be reviewed on an annual basis.

On February 21st Al, Amanda, and Scott did an internal audit of the district's financial records. They found no errors and reported that everything looks good and well organized. Al made a motion that we accept the audit report, Amanda seconded, motion approved.

Allison has gotten two quotes for a new office printer. We currently have two printers, one small color one that is 6 years old and a larger b&w one that is 15 years old. Allison would like to upgrade to one printer that does both b&w and color. Each quote came with maintenance agreements. Bedford Office Supply quoted us for \$2995 and \$3948. Gordon Flesch quoted us for \$2914 and \$3200. Al made a motion to accept the \$2914 Canon from Gordon Flesch which came with a slightly lower maintenance cost and the preferred Canon model. Amanda seconded. Motion approved.

Manager's updates: Master Naturalist class is finished and went very well! Planning for Great American Cleanup with Keep Brown County Beautiful (April 21st) and Native Plant Stewardship Class (June 12-Aug 21). We got community garden plot prepped. Trees have been ordered for Friends of Library giveaway, we will be giving out elderberry and paw-paw...I can cover Friday April 27th but **I need someone to cover Saturday April 28th 9-2!!** The Friends of Lake Monroe group does intend to apply for a 319 Grant through City of Bloomington Utilities. I attended one of their meetings and encouraged them to involve Brown County people, they will likely be asking to list us as a partner on their 319 application. This should be discussed further this summer.

District manager vacation time: 5/4, 5/7, 6/15, 7/11, 7/12, 7/13, 8/24, 8/27-31

PSS/CRP Contribution Agreement- Laura made a call to state coordinator Whitney McGrew as well as Jennifer Boyle Warner to express our concerns of not getting paid in a timely manner. Both reassured her that they are doing the best they can and we can expect 3rd and 4th Quarter payments by mid-May.

Indiana Raptor Center: Allison and Laura would like to meet with Patti Reynolds and Laura Edmunds of the Indiana Raptor Center to discuss strengthening our relationship.

Our monthly board meeting times will switch back to the first Wednesday of each month at 5pm. Meeting time to change to accommodate Cara and Allison's work schedule more easily.

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The district manager job description is going to be reviewed by Laura and Scott. This is because the county is doing an evaluation of each job and asked us to provide a copy of our job description.

Salt Creek Preservation Group Report- no report

Rule 5- received plans for Maple Leaf Performing Arts Center

Meeting adjourned at 10:54 AM. Motion was made by Scott, and seconded by Amanda. Motion passed

Minutes taken and submitted by Allison Shoaf.