

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
5/2/18
SWCD Office- 5:00 pm

The meeting was brought to order at 5:01 pm by chair Laura Young. Those in attendance were as follows: Bonnie Closey, Al Weber, Allison Shoaf, Jeanne and Charlie Shaw, Cara Bergschneider, Scott Stephenson, Keith Kirk, and Amanda Perkins.

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

Al made a motion to accept April Claims. Scott seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: The annual plan of work was reviewed. It will need to be updated since meeting dates for the remainder of the year have changed. We also have no tillage transect to complete this June since it occurs every other year and we did it last year. There was a short review of CWI and Allison was asked to bring or show an updated spreadsheet at the next meeting. She will be meeting with Town Hill Rd. residents on May 12th at 2 pm for an "Invasive walk and talk". 2017 mini grants are almost all wrapped up, Jon Ely has until June to turn in his receipts. We will begin advertising the 2019 mini grants which we already have two inquiries about. One is for a large pollinator planting at Cordry-Sweetwater Conservancy District. They met with Allison this week and she gave them both a CWI and Mini Grant application. Secondly, Cara has passed along an application to some landowners who are having erosion issues around a pond. For both projects, we will have NRCS partners writing the plans.

NRCS Update: Cara reported that Brown County has one CSP Application for this year. She informed us of an Urban Soil Health Workshop on May 16th in Warrick Co. Allison will be attending with her. She talked briefly about a state-wide contribution agreement between NRCS and NACD to establish local working groups focused on urban soil health. There will be a meeting on July 12th in Bloomington where partners can come and learn more about this agreement.

Cara did a short presentation on a streambank stabilization project that she completed on her own property. This was done using live stakes, species included some willows, elderberries, and red osier dogwood. The hope is to stabilize an eroded streambank using native vegetation as opposed to inorganic materials. The district would like to use Cara's project as a model for Brown County landowners and potentially have her present this at a workshop. This method could also be recommended and funded by a mini grant. We will look to do this in 2019 after we can gauge the success of the project.

The board would like Allison to look into transferring some of our money from checking to savings. She will check with SBOA and what that would look like in our financial record keeping.

Manager's Updates: Native Plant Stewardship Class begins June 12th and ends August 21st. Nature Daze planning meetings have started. I'm helping out with an invasives work day at Muskatatuck on May 15th. I'll be attending an Urban Soil Health Workshop on May 16th. Helmsburg students are selling native

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plants at Bean Blossom Farmer's Market on Friday May 25th. Community Garden has been planted, anyone who wants to help out with maintaining it over the summer, let me know.

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

Summer intern goals: the board discussed some day to day and larger goals they have in mind for the summer intern. Day to day would include assisting in the office and website/Facebook management. A larger project will be working on a map or illustration of some kind to highlight the work the SWCD does. Something we can display at events, take to county council meetings, etc. Part of this work might also include organizing files and potentially scanning some in. Another project Allison has in mind is to get some work started on a logo contest.

We've contacted the county about getting another phone for the intern's desk. The cost of a new phone is \$450 but Ric Fox thinks he has a used phone we can use.

Allison played a video she received from Brenda Ely highlighting the native garden at Helmsburg Elementary school. The students harvested seed last fall and are going to sell the plants they've grown at the Bean Blossom farmer's market on May 25th. We will publicize the video on our Facebook and website.

PSS/CRP Contribution Agreement- no update

Salt Creek Preservation Group Report- no report

Rule 5- Allison did a site review this week with Samantha from IDEM and Devin Jerrell from INDOT. They reviewed the Yellowwood Rd. project because a complaint was filed. They also checked out the borrow pit on 45 and Hard Truth Hills.

The board made some requests at the end of the meeting:

- Have serviceberry and yellowwood trees for the tree give-away next year
- Have mini-grant spending spreadsheet at next meeting

Meeting adjourned at 7:06 PM. Motion was made by Charlie, and seconded by Amanda. Motion passed

Minutes taken and submitted by Allison Shoaf.