

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
7/11/18
SWCD Office- 5:00 pm

The meeting was brought to order at 4:57 pm by chair Laura Young. Those in attendance were as follows: Scott Stephenson, Al Weber, Jeanne and Charlie Shaw, Cara Bergschneider, Laura Young, Courtney McGuckin, and Keith Kirk (Allison Shoaf is on vacation).

Scott made a motion to accept the June minutes. Charlie seconded. Motion passed.

Charlie made a motion to accept June Financial Claims and Statements. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: Laura reviewed the changes to the annual plan of work and verified all had seen them. Laura reminded the board of the purpose of revising the District Manager job description. Scott made 3 grammatical corrections to the job description. Al made a motion to accept the job description with the 3 corrections. Scott seconded. Motion passed. Laura added CWI to old business. Laura brought it to the board's attention that Leah Harmon, state head of CWI, has serious concerns about the lack of administrative reporting on our 4 county CWI grant. This administrative reporting is the responsibility of Monroe County. Potential consequences are serious and could include termination of the grant early. Laura has begun conversations with Nathan Stoelting about this. She will follow-up and advise the board. The board expressed their questions and concerns and would like to know more.

NRCS Update: Cara Bergschneider provided the NRCS update as follows: "The 2018 Farm Bill is currently in the works. It will likely be very similar to the 2014 Farm Bill. Jerry Raynor will take over as state conservationist on July 23, 2018. CRP opened up for re-enrollment and new enrollment since closing down last fall. Enrollment will be open until August 17, 2018. Allison and I are working together to plan a joint NRCS/Brown County SWCD field day covering wildlife planting for next year. It will take place at a private property with a prairie patch restoration already in progress. The Bloomington Community Orchard is willing to host our board for a field day anytime. Two new EQIP Conservation Activity Plans have been approved with 2 more in the works for Brown County. There is an USHER callout meeting July 12, 2018 at 9am at the Monroe County 4H building. The meeting's purpose is to promote working on urban soil health issues."

The board reviewed the 2019 county budget submission. Changes include a request for an increase to the District Manager's salary and funds for a part-time employee. The budget hearing will be mid to late August. Laura and Allison are creating an economic impact statement to bring showing the value of every dollar invested into Brown County SWCD. Cara will gather data from NRCS to assist with this.

The board began discussing a possible part-time position. The position would be a contract employee controlled by the board, with no benefits, and working 10-12 hours per week. Initial thoughts were discussed. The board will continue to look into the potential value of this position and discuss concerns at future meetings.

2019 IASWCD Resolutions are open for submission for the upcoming IASWCD annual meeting in January.

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The board reviewed the new State Board of Accounts requirements. Auditing will now be done online every 3 years. Financial information will be uploaded online to the SBOA.

The board was asked to consider funding up to \$1,500 towards the cost of 4th Grade Field Day on an annual basis. This will include, but not limited to, t-shirts, food for speakers, other promotional items/supplies. The school has agreed to cover the cost of transportation this year (we paid for it last year, \$480) and hopefully they will continue to in the future. Courtney gave quotes of t-shirt and station sign costs. Al recommended checking if there is an entrance fee for the park for the day of the event. Charlie made a motion to fund \$1,500 for 4th Grade Field Day. Scott seconded. Motion passed.

Board members will help work the fair booth and pick up trash at the fair after the next meeting on August 1st. Courtney gave quotes for a giveaway item for the fair along with a few sample items. Allison, Courtney, Charlie, and Al will continue to look into a specific item to purchase. Scott made a motion to fund \$500 for a fair giveaway item. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Manager's Updates: Allison Shoaf provided these updates to the board in advance: "A date has been set for this year's 4th Grade Field Day: Friday September 21st. If anyone is interested in being on the planning committee, let me know. The NPSC is in full swing, we have 16 students and it's going really well. I've been busy planning all of our fall events. Cover crop seed orders and mini grant apps are now available, so please promote them. Courtney has updated the website and will continue to manage it plus the Facebook page this summer. She has also been helping a lot with event planning and garden work. She has been working on a "Brown County SWCD: who we are and what we do" display board for the fair. We will have a booth at this year's BCCF Carnival on August 18th 10-2 at the fairgrounds. The Morgan Co. SWCD is letting us borrow their Ducky Derby game and we will use the same informational display from fair. I would like at least two board members to help out with manning the booth that day."

Keith and Al offered to help man the booth for the BCCF Carnival.

Intern's Updates: Courtney presented the tri-fold presentation board she has been working on. It will be used at this year's fair booth and other future events. She is also working on a large retractable banner with many pictures showing BC SWCD work. Courtney has been working on getting outside sponsorship for 4th Grade Field Day. The Brown County Public Library will be providing the students with a take-home list of recommended natural resources books they can check out from the library.

District manager vacation time: 6/15, 7/11, 7/12, 7/13, 7/16, 8/24, 8/27-31

PSS/CRP Contribution Agreement: no update

Rule 5: The Maple Leaf Performing Arts Center plans are sufficient.

Meeting adjourned at 7:01 PM. Motion was made by Charlie, and seconded by Scott. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.