

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
8/1/18
SWCD Office- 5:00 pm

The meeting was brought to order at 4:56 pm by chair Laura Young. Those in attendance were as follows: Scott Stephenson, Al Weber, Jeanne and Charlie Shaw, Cara Bergschneider, Laura Young, Keith Kirk, Bonnie Closey, Allison Shoaf, and Courtney McGuckin.

Al made a motion to accept the July minutes. Scott seconded. Motion passed.

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

Old Business: The CWI administrative issue brought to attention at July's board meeting has been resolved through the Monroe County SWCD. Upcoming events on the Annual Plan of Work were discussed. The IASWCD is looking for volunteers for the Pathway to Water Quality exhibit at the state fair. Brown County SWCD will have a booth at the Brown County Community Foundation Volunteer Fair on Aug. 18th. The supervisors will conduct the District Manager's annual evaluation on Aug. 22nd. The Women's Learning Circle date has been set for Oct. 16th. It will be a discussion focused event connecting woman forest owners in Brown County and natural resource professionals.

NRCS Update: Cara Bergschneider provided the NRCS update as follows: "The area Soil Scientist Jeff Woodward has a new soil probe attached to an ATV. It can obtain an 8ft core from wetland and livestock areas. John Kempf, of Advancing Ecosystem Agriculture, is coming to speak about soil health, decreasing disease, and improving productivity at two different locations: Aug. 14th at the Daviess County Produce Auction and Aug. 15th at Byron Seeds in Rockville. The Monroe County SWCD is creating a small working group for USHER. The callout meeting is Sept. 5th. Otherwise, I have been very busy with field visits involving site checkups and future projects."

A new Memorandum of Understanding has been drafted which affects the working relationship between NRCS, IASWCD, and other government organizations. Comments on the draft can be sent in for another week.

The IASWCD Region Meetings for staff and supervisors are coming up in August and September. The closest meeting to our office would be on Aug. 22nd in North Vernon.

The board reviewed the job description created for the part-time position. The board discussed the benefits of the position being an at-will position that will be completely controlled by the board. It was also determined to be an appropriate use and fulfillment of the PSS money accrued. Al made a motion to accept the position based on the description provided. Scott seconded. Motion passed. The next steps will include placing job advertisements and forming a hiring committee.

The staff/supervisor outing will be held at Trevlac Bluffs Nature Preserve in September.

There has been 1 application submitted for a 2019 Mini Grant. The application is for a rain catchment system for livestock. Two other people have notified Allison that they plan to submit an application.

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Manager's Updates: Allison Shoaf provided these updates to the board as follows: "I've been busy with 4th Grade Field Day and Nature Daze planning. Both events are in good standing, and I hope many of you can attend. The NPSC is almost half way over and is going very well. I'm already seeing the benefits of this class and Master Naturalist leading to an increased volunteer base. I've had a phone discussion with Melissa Moran from TNC regarding the Friends of Lake Monroe 319 Grant Application. I also have a sit down meeting scheduled for August 6th with Sherry Brucker, president of FoLM. The main purpose of these talks is to determine how and to what extent Brown County SWCD will be involved in this project. They have already issued their NOI for the 319 grant and will ask us if we would like to be listed as a partner on the application. This topic can be added to our September agenda."

Intern's Updates: Courtney McGuckin provided the intern updates as follows: "I have been working on a lot of 4th Grade Field Day preparations. I have talked with many local companies about sponsoring the event. The Friends of Brown County State Park have agreed to sponsor the lunch that we will provide for the presenters, teachers, and volunteers. Brown County Eye Care has donated \$100 for the event. I drafted a scavenger hunt activity for the kids that day. I have also been working on a Conservation Practices Facebook series. I will be making many to schedule to be posted after my end date. I have finished the retractable banner and will be ordering that soon. There have been a few more updates made to the website."

District manager vacation time: 8/24, 8/27-31

PSS/CRP Contribution Agreement: no update

Rule 5: no update

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 PM. Motion was made by Charlie, and seconded by Al. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.