

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
2/6/19
SWCD Office- 5:00 pm

The meeting was brought to order at 5:03 pm by chair Laura Young. Those in attendance were as follows: Scott Stephenson, Amanda Perkins, Al Weber, Cara Bergschneider, Laura Young, Keith Kirk, Allison Shoaf, and Nathan Stoelting.

Some personal news was shared among the board to start the meeting. The first being District Manager Allison Shoaf is pregnant with a due date in early August. The second being Associate Jeanne Shaw will be undergoing back surgery and is expected to be out for the next 3-4 months. Both of these situations will likely impact the work of the board in the coming months and further discussion will occur.

Next, the board completed the required Sexual Harassment Training by ISDA. DSS Nathan Stoelting was there to lead the training and upon completion had everyone sign a sheet to verify completion. Both our office and ISDA will retain a copy. This training should be conducted every three years and all new supervisors and staff are required to do it. Supervisor Charlie Shaw was not in attendance and therefore we will arrange a time for him to complete training with an ISDA staff member at a later date.

Allison asked that use of credit card points be added to the agenda.

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

Amanda made a motion to accept January Claims and December Bank Statements. January bank statements have not been received yet. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: Allison is sending out letters to all CWI participants currently in contract. This letter reminds the participant that work needs to be completed by the end of their contract date or by September 1st, 2019. This is to ensure all participants are paid by the end of the CWI grant cycle in 2019. Furthermore, if any participant can no longer complete their project, the committee would like to know so they can free up funds for other interested individuals. Allison also mentioned the potential for this grant to be renewed in the 2020 grant cycle. Monroe County has expressed interest in apply again and partner with Brown, Greene, and Owen once again. This time the grant would include funding for a position. No major decisions have been made and Allison will update the board accordingly.

The Annual Plan of Work was reviewed and the BC SWCD will not have a garden plot at the Nashville community garden this year.

BCSWCD Annual Meeting: a food signup was passed around, the board will arrive at 4:30 to setup, and Allison is looking into a gift for the speaker. Door Prizes were also discussed.

Al Weber made a motion that upon approval from SBOA, the board approves to redeem credit card points for door prize item at our Annual Meeting. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

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Allison has completed the 2018 inventory and AFR. The internal audit will take place February 20th at 10 am.

NRCS Update: Cara Bergschneider provided the NRCS update as follows: “there are two great conferences taking place in the next month, the Purdue Small Farms Conference and the Southern IN Grazing Conference. There will be no reduction in conservation funding in Farm Bill 2018 however there will be a lot of policy changes. The new conservation program deadlines will not be released for another 3-4 weeks. I will be getting an intern this summer.”

The MOU between the SWCD and NRCS was discussed.

Amanda made a motion to authorize Scott Stephenson the authority to authorize the chairperson to sign the MOU. Scott Stephenson seconded. Motion passed.

Al moved to accept the MOU as presented. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

Also, Amanda reported on the annual conference. She thanked us for sending her, really enjoyed herself and got a lot of benefit from attending all the workshops, but especially from the climate change impact on agriculture. She appreciated being with Al for the business meeting and commented on the formality of the meeting. We also discussed the resolutions and which ones passed or did not pass.

On Saturday February 16th, at the Brown County Playhouse, there will be a chance to meet with our legislators. Both Senator Eric Koch and Representative Chris May will be in attendance. Laura, Al, and potentially other board members plan to attend and discuss the importance of CWI funding and why it should be increased.

The Friends of Lake Monroe 319 grant application has been recommended by IDEM and is now waiting on approval from the EPA. The group should hopefully know if they were approved by spring of this year.

Allison explained the Lake Monroe Water Fund meetings she and Cara have been attending. The water fund is being facilitated by TNC and includes partners from IDNR, SWCD, NRCS, City of Bloomington Utilities, Friends of Lake Monroe, IDEM, and others. Essentially, this group would like to establish a funding mechanism to preserve the Lake Monroe watershed for water quality, habitat, and recreation. At the last meeting Allison attended, they had a rep from the Conservation Law Center come in to discuss different funding options. These ideas are still very exploratory with no concrete plans. Allison and Cara will continue to tag team the meetings to ensure SWCD/NRCS stays up to date.

Manager's Updates: Allison Shoaf provided these updates to the board in advance: “My first Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy (IWLA) Class went really well. The Lake Lemon Conservancy District manager is also enrolled in the class so I've already made a good connection with him. There is also a couple other folks in the class who are involved with FoLM and therefore will hopefully strengthen my

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partnership with that group. I have completed the 100R, IN Tax reporting, and 1099 filings for 2018 (all were due by Jan. 31st). I have completed the 2018 AFR. I've been invited to have a booth at the Eco Logic Conference in Bloomington on February 26th. IASWCD emails should now start coming to all supervisors, let me know if you don't see any. I will order rain barrels in February once the storage room in the recycling center is available."

District manager vacation time: none scheduled

Educator's Updates: "The updated BCSWCD brochures are available. As someone who was new to SWCDs not long ago, I tried to focus it more on who we are and what we do for the community. The Conservation Practice booklet is still coming along. Much of the information is put together. I will be working with Cara to get pictures for it. I am excited to have her input on it. I have started working on my plans for a summer youth program. I've mostly been doing research and collecting ideas, but I imagine it will take place in early June."

PSS/CRP Contribution Agreement: Allison will touch base with Whitney McGrew and Joe Schmees about our quarter 2 overpayment.

Rule 5: no update

There were concerns noted by board and associates who had seen a large overlook area cleared along 135N. The land is owned by Parks and Rec and is not subject to Rule 5. Concerns noted were the large amount of clear cut land in a very steep, erosion prone area. Allison was aware of this as well and was getting more info.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 PM. Motion was made by Al, and seconded by Amanda. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Allison Shoaf.