

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
3/7/19
Brown County History Center- 5:00 pm

The meeting was brought to order at 4:53 pm by chair Laura Young. Those in attendance were as follows: Scott Stephenson, Laura Young, Keith Kirk, Allison Shoaf, Amanda Perkins, Courtney McGuckin, Al Weber, Dick Young, and Bonnie Closey.

Laura added "Overlook" to agenda.

Scott made a motion to accept the February minutes. Amanda seconded. Motion passed and minutes signed.

Al made a motion to accept February Financial Claims and both the February and January Bank Statements. Scott seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Annual Plan of Work: The Annual Financial Report is due at the end of this month. The pond workshop date has been set for May 16th at Yellowwood.

Legislator Meeting Summary: Laura and Al attended a recent legislator meeting. The legislators presented statements and gave time for questions. Laura and Al had time to discuss soil and water talking points with both legislators.

Overlook: Allison presented recommendations for the overlook site to the Parks & Recreation board and public. Her quotes are also in the newspaper. She participated in an interview with WFIU. She has been out to the site and put flagging up for recommended water bar locations. She will be meeting with IDEM about the site as well.

New Business:

NRCS: "I have mostly been working on EQIP planning this past month. Allison and I are proud to say that we are two applications away from having all Brown County applications uploaded to the system and ready for a quality assurance review. We just received an April 26th deadline to have this completed, so we are well ahead of schedule! We have 12 EQIP applications for FY2019 in Brown County. I have 26 applications for Monroe County- not sure on why there is such a discrepancy between the two counties this year? Usually there are close to an equal amount of applications in each county. We do have 1 CSP application for Brown County, however we have not received information on this program for FY2019 besides that the program will be offered at some point for the fiscal year. This lull in information is due to changes in the 2018 Farm Bill regarding CSP. I attended the Indiana Small Farm Conference last Thursday and Friday- it was excellent! There were quite a few small farmers from Brown and Monroe Counties. In the past month I have given a presentation on the Allelopathic Effects of Invasive Species to The Friends of McCormicks Creek, a presentation on Resources for Organic Growers at the NRCS SW Area meeting and was a panel member for a Watershed Course at SPEA-IU.

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With the increased interest in industrial hemp production the SW Soil Health team has committed to researching the effects of hemp production on soil health. The intention is to take a proactive approach to the introduction of a new crop and make sure we have solid recommendations on how to implement a cropping system that build soil health. I will be taking the lead on this project.”

Manager’s Updates: “I spent most of February finishing up the AFR, working on my IWLA assignments, and the annual report. I’ve been advising the Parks and Rec board on best management practices for the recently cleared overlook area. I’ve also been receiving a lot of calls from landowners concerning the recent flooding. Mostly concerns about driveways, culverts, and lake/pond conditions. Therefore, I’ve been on the phone with DNR-Division of Water many times. It has been good to make contacts with them and receive some clarification on permitting, dams, etc. One person invited me to a training in June on dams and I plan on attending. Another DOW employee said she is available to come down and lead a workshop for us. She has done so for other SWCD’s just this year.”

Educator’s Updates: “I have set my youth nature programming for the week of June 10th. Number of days is to be determined. I am thinking to do an adaptations/survival theme. I can foresee a lot of fun activities related to that topic. Cara has sent me many pictures for the Conservation Practice booklet. I am going through those and adding them in. I have created a rough draft to submit for the Brown County Community Foundation grant. Allison helped review it with me and provide more details. I plan to submit it this week. We are asking for funding for 4th Grade Field Day.”

Internal Audit Report: Amanda and Scott performed the audit on February 20th. Minor errors were found and corrected. It was suggested that members of the internal audit committee rotate, to give all board members this perspective. Overall, the audit checked out.

PSS/CRP Contribution Agreement: no update

Rule 5: Allison located about a 10 acre area of Shipley Hollow Rd. that may need follow up. It appears to be bare soil, perhaps an old quarry, and erosion is evident from the satellite photo. Allison will also be checking the overlook and Maple Leaf next week with IDEM.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm. Motion was made by AI, and seconded by Scott. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.