

**Minutes**  
**Brown County Soil & Water**  
**Conservation District**  
**5/1/19**  
**SWCD Office- 5:00 pm**

The meeting was brought to order at 5:02 pm by chair Scott Stephenson. Those in attendance were as follows: Scott Stephenson, Charlie Shaw, Jeanne Shaw, Cara Bergschneider, Laura Young, Amanda Perkins, Bonnie Closey, Allison Shoaf, Courtney McGuckin, Keith Kirk, and Al Weber.

Allison added "Bank Account" to agenda.

Charlie made a motion to accept the April minutes. Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Al made a motion to accept March Statements and April Claims. The April Statement has not been received yet. Charlie seconded. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

Annual Plan of Work: The Pond Management Workshop is May 16<sup>th</sup> 1-4pm at Yellowwood. The board has decided to move the July board meeting from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup>.

CWI: There is currently no funding available for new contracts. Allison is still performing site visits and discussing other grant options with landowners.

2019 Mini Grants: There is only one grant that has not been paid yet. The work for that grant should be starting soon. All of the other recipients have been paid their first installment.

Conservation Field Day Summary: The event went well and was considered a great showcase of how government agencies, nonprofit groups, and contractors can work together.

**New Business:**

Bank Account: It was discussed to add Scott to the bank account as the new chair person. Al made a motion to add Scott to the bank account. Charlies seconded. Motion passed.

NRCS: The EQIP 2019 selections will be announced around May 20<sup>th</sup>. There were 12 applications from Brown County. There is 1 CSP application for Brown County so far. These are due by May 10<sup>th</sup>. The Wild Turkey Federation will have a Forester stationed at the Bloomington NRCS office. It is a 3 year position starting in June or July. Cara will be getting a summer intern in middle or late May. A civil rights document between NRCS and BCSWCD needs signed at the next board meeting for annual compliance. The tillage transect will be conducted in June. Cara has been conducting soil health classes at the Bloomington Community Orchard and the Bloomington Community Garden. This summer, she will be helping a landowner in downtown Indy convert 4 acres into farmland.

BCNWP/SWCD MOU: A Memorandum of Understanding between BCSWCD and Brown County Native Woodlands Project was reviewed by the board. The MOU covers the shared use of the educator position. The educator would perform similar functions for both groups. The BCNWP would pay

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BCSWCD for the time the educator spent working on BCNWP assignments. The board thought this aligned with our mission well and that BCNWP would be a good group to continue to work closely with.

2019 Purchases: The idea of purchasing a broadfork to rent out to landowners was revisited. Cara gave insight on the benefits of using a broadfork. The board discussed which types would work best for Brown County. Charlie made a motion to purchase a 4-tined, hard pan broadfork. Laura seconded. Motion passed. It was recommended to purchase ph meters to rent out as well. Allison will purchase these. The meters are inexpensive and do not require a board vote. We would not be able to rent out backpack sprayers because the insurance agency has liability concerns with that. The idea of purchasing a new BCSWCD highway sign was revisited. The board discussed the different regulations of highways 45, 46, and 135 and the different permissions required. Concerns about the sign's size, material, and design were discussed. The discussion has been tabled as we continue to look for different options. Allison presented quotes for new 2020 plat books. She will follow up with Mapping Solutions and Farm and Home Publisher to receive more definitive quotes and details.

TrustIndiana: A trust has been opened for government organizations to put money into and receive better interest rates. There are no penalties or stipulations for using the money. The trust is FDIC insured. Allison will attend a training in June in Columbus to learn more about it.

CWI 2020: A unique Clean Water Indiana grant has been created for 2020. Twenty-three counties have been invited to participate. The goal is to drastically reduce sediment transport off of farmland by offering funds to encourage cover crops. Brown County would receive \$4,000 a year for cover crop funding. Laura made a motion to participate as one of the 23 counties. Al seconded. Motion passed.

2020 Mini Grants: The application deadline for 2020 Mini Grants will be Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. The applications will be reviewed at the Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Interviews will be conducted within the next few weeks after that meeting.

SWCD Evening Trainings: SWCD supervisor trainings will take place on Aug. 20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 27<sup>th</sup> in Fulton, Orange, and Delaware counties respectively.

Terrestrial Plant Rule: The Terrestrial Plant Rule was signed by the governor on March 18<sup>th</sup>. It becomes effective on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Sellers in Indiana have a year from that date to terminate the sale of all plants on the list.

Manager's Updates: "I'm nearing the end of my IWLA class with graduation on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have only one individual and one group assignment left. I've also been getting a lot more requests for site visits and programs. I have two programs and 3 site visits scheduled this month and next. The tree giveaway at the plant sale went really well and continues to be a good event to participate in. I'm hosting a Weed Wrangle at the SP on May 4<sup>th</sup> and the Pond Management workshop is May 16<sup>th</sup>. Laura and I were never able to schedule a meeting with HR Manager Melissa Stinson due to her personal time away. However, I've been working on planning my maternity leave out and I'll sit down with Scott and Laura soon to discuss plans with them."

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Educator's Updates: "The Brown County Community Foundation grant interview went well. They suggested that we get a shirt quote from Eagle Manufacturing, the student group at the high school. I am working on getting that ASAP so they can use it in their decision-making process. I am meeting with the principal of Van Buren on 4/30 to discuss using the school as the location for my summer program. Donna Niednagel with the Bean Blossom Farmer's Market has reached out to us about collaborating on youth activities at the farmer's market. We are planning to meet within the next few weeks. Junior Nature Camp is beginning to be publicized. The registration form will become available this week on our website."

PSS/CRP Agreement: The agreement expires at the end of this year. It has not yet been determined if it will be renewed in the future.

Rule 5: The Salt Creek Trail project has started. Silt fencing has already been put up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm. Motion was made by Charlie, and seconded by Al. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.