

**Minutes**  
**Brown County Soil & Water**  
**Conservation District**  
**Local Working Group Meeting and Board Meeting**  
**10/2/19**  
**SWCD Office- 4:30 pm**

**Local Working Group**

The Local Working Group Meeting was brought to order at 4:30 pm by Cara Bergschneider. Those in attendance were as follows: Cara Bergschneider, District Conservationist for NRCS; Bonnie Closey, Associate Supervisor for Brown County SWCD Board; Jim Eagleman, retired DNR and retired chief Naturalist at Brown County State Park; Randy Jones, retired IDEM and board member for BCNWP and Stone Head Conservancy; Robert McCrea, Land Protection Director for Sycamore Land Trust; Courtney McGuckin, Educator for Brown County SWCD; Amanda Perkins, Supervisor for Brown County SWCD Board; Charlie Shaw, Supervisor for Brown County SWCD Board; Jeanne Shaw, Associate Supervisor for Brown County SWCD Board; Amy Spalding, Forester for NRCS/National Wild Turkey Federation; Scott Stephenson Chairperson of the Brown County SWCD Board; Al Weber, Supervisor for Brown County SWCD Board; and Laura Young, Vice Chairperson of the Brown County SWCD Board.

Cara reviewed the purpose of the Local Working Group and explained environmental concerns and practices to be voted on. The Local Working Group's purpose is to provide localized information on natural resource priorities in Brown County. The group can define conservation needs and help localize efforts to address specific resource concerns. Categories discussed included soil erosion, soil quality degradation, water quality degradation, air quality impacts, degraded plant condition, inadequate habitat for fish and wildlife, and livestock production limitations. Resource concerns within these categories were ranked according to perceived needs for Brown County.

**Board Meeting**

The Board Meeting was brought to order immediately following the Local Working Group Meeting at 5:45 pm by chair Scott Stephenson. Those in attendance were as follows: Cara Bergschneider, Bonnie Closey, Courtney McGuckin, Amanda Perkins, Charlie Shaw, Jeanne Shaw, Scott Stephenson, Al Weber, and Laura Young.

Al made a motion to accept the September minutes. Charlie seconded. Motion passed. The minutes were signed by the board members.

Laura made a motion to accept the September Financial Report. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

**Old Business:**

CWI: No update.

Annual Plan of Work: A winter family hike has been scheduled for Jan. 4, 2020.

Mini Grants: Cara and Bonnie performed a site visit for a possible applicant.

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**New Business:**

NRCS: Cara presented with Amy Spalding about forest management programs. Amy also wrote an article about EQIP for the Brown County Democrat with the hopes that there will be more Brown County applications in the future. Cara will be doing a talk on soils for the Tree Steward class in Monroe County. Cara had great success with the NRCS Soil Health Trailer at a recent children's event.

Appoint Annual Conference Delegate: Laura made a motion for Al to be the delegate for Brown County SWCD at the upcoming Annual IASWCD Conference. Charlie seconded. Motion passed.

Appoint Election Committee: Amanda made a motion for Laura, Al, and Bonnie to serve as the election committee for the 2020 supervisor election. Charlie seconded. Motion passed.

Recommendation for Supervisor Appointment: Al made a motion for Amanda to run for the elected position in March. Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Nature Daze and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day Summary: Nature Daze received a good turn out this year. Attendees enjoyed the new speakers offered. Many board members attended 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Field Day. The students were highly engaged and asked many good questions. Both events ran smoothly and fortunately had great weather.

Manager's Updates: None.

Educator's Updates: I am easing my way back into work from my brief maternity leave. I have stopped into the office a few times, and everything has been very well taken care of by the board members. I am working on addressing all emails that I can. I am also working on the BCCF Grant Accountability Report and fall newsletter that both need submitted this month.

PSS/CRP Agreement: None.

Rule 5: None.

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm. Motion was made by Charlie, and seconded by Amanda. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.