

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
11/6/19
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: Cara Bergschneider, Bonnie Closey, Courtney McGuckin, Amanda Perkins, Charlie Shaw, Jeanne Shaw, Allison Shoaf, Scott Stephenson, Al Weber, and Laura Young.

Allison added "NACD Dues" and "Supervisor Appointment Vote" to the agenda.

Laura made a motion to accept the October minutes. Amanda seconded. Motion passed. The minutes were signed by the board members.

Laura made a motion to accept the October Financial Report. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

CWI: A few 2019 projects are left to be paid.

Annual Plan of Work: The Waterway Permitting and Stream Etiquette Workshop is happening on Dec. 10th from 9am to 12pm in the Salmon Room of the Brown County Annex Building.

Mini Grants: The 2019 projects still need their final installments paid. There have not been any 2020 applications submitted yet.

New Business:

NACD Dues: Charlie made a motion for the board to submit \$101 in dues to the National Association of Conservation Districts. Laura seconded. Motion passed.

NRCS: Cara informed the board about a change happening with NRCS grant applications. The ranking system is being modified nationally. Locally, counties will be grouped into regions and the rankings decided on at Local Working Group Meetings will be averaged across the regions. This could negatively affect Brown County since our resource concerns are different from many other counties in Indiana. Cara encouraged the board to send a letter to the Area Conservationist and the state office suggesting that county resource rankings are not averaged.

Supervisor Appointment Vote: Al made a motion for Amanda to remain in the appointed position. Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Nominee for Supervisor Election: Staff and board members have reached out to many people about joining the board. They are awaiting responses.

FoLM Watershed Coordinator Position: The Friends of Lake Monroe have received a 319 Grant to hire a Watershed Coordinator to write a Watershed Management Plan. They are accepting applications.

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Native Plant Garden Workday at Office: Allison would like to expand the current garden at the back of the office building. She will work on gathering supplies such as landscape timber, fill dirt, compost, and mulch. A workday will be scheduled.

CWI 2020: Invasive species work was not approved for funding for the 2020 CWI cycle. Residents interested in doing invasive species work will be directed to our Mini Grants instead. Funding was approved for a 3 year cover crop grant.

2020 BCSWCD Annual Meeting: The annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 4th. The board discussed a few options of how to modify this year's meeting. Possible speakers and topics were suggested. Allison will work on receiving quotes from new locations.

2020 IASWCD Annual Conference- Jan. 12-13: Al will represent BCSWCD as our delegate at the annual conference. Allison will be attending both days of the conference, and Courtney is considering one day.

Manager's Updates: "I returned from Maternity Leave on October 23rd and since then, things have been going smoothly! I've added all financial entries to QuickBooks, submitted claims to the county, and returned all phone/email messages. On November 20th, I'll be giving a presentation to the Friends of Lake Monroe group on behalf of Salt Creek Preservation Group. Plat book details are being discussed and sorted out, we should receive the new books in early 2020. I'll also start working on details for a "waterway permitting and stream etiquette meeting" to take place in December."

Educator's Updates: "I completed the required BCCF Grant Accountability Report in the middle of the month. That also required me to write a letter to the editor in the BC Democrat to mention BCCF and thank our sponsors. I also completed and sent out the fall newsletter. I am now working on my winter hike and publicizing that. I am also creating personalized thank you cards for 4th Grade Field Day sponsors."

PSS/CRP Agreement: The agreement officially ends Dec. 31st. Allison would like to still work with Brown County customers at our office. The board agreed that it was valuable for Allison to continue these relationships.

Rule 5: An inquiry was submitted while Allison was on leave. It was transferred to Samantha Wickizer at IDEM.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09 pm. Motion was made by Amanda and seconded by Laura. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.