

**Minutes**  
**Brown County Soil & Water**  
**Conservation District**  
**12/4/19**  
**SWCD Office- 5:00 pm**

The meeting was brought to order at 5:27 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.

Laura added "County Budget" and Courtney added "Poster Contest Budget" to the agenda.

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

Charlie made a motion to accept the November Financial Report and Claims. Al seconded. Motion passed.

The board watched Part 2 of IASWCD Director Joe Schmee's informational video.

**Old Business:**

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

Mini Grants: There are 2 outstanding 2019 projects that we are waiting to hear back about: Vicky Getty and Van Buren Elementary School. Getty's project has not started due to poor weather conditions. She will follow up soon with Allison to confirm if the work will be done before the year ends. Van Buren Elementary has completed some of the work but not all due to change in staffing. Allison is waiting to hear back from principal Gavin Steele.

Native Plant Garden: We will be getting timber from Cedar USA to compete our native plant garden extension project behind the office. Laura made a motion to pay the amount needed for the timbers. Al seconded. Motion passed.

CWI 2020: The 2020 Clean Water Indiana grant will be used for cover crop funding. We plan to reach out to our local farmers to spread the news as well as mention the grant at the annual Ag Breakfast in January.

**New Business:**

County Budget: We still have 2019 funds available to spend. Ideas for spending include a metal "Entering/Exiting Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District" sign on roadways, a weed wrench to be available for residents to rent out from our office, updates in computer software, and education materials. Laura made a motion to purchase 2 metal signs and the weed wrench. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

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NRCS: Cara performed the cover crop transect with Allison and reported a doubling in the number of fields in the county that are planted with cover crops. Cara brought the response letter from the state regarding the letters submitted discouraging the change in ranking system. So far, the letters have been unsuccessful in preventing the change. Cara will keep us informed.

2020 BCSWCD Annual Meeting: A few new locations were investigated and deemed to be too expensive. Therefore, the meeting will continue to be held at the Brown County History Center on March 4th. Amy Spalding, Forester with the National Wild Turkey Federation, will be speaking on forest management and managing for wild turkeys.

2020 IASWCD Annual Conference Resolutions: The board will review the 2020 Resolutions on their own time and discuss them at the January board meeting.

2020 Mini Grants: The board will discuss the 2020 Mini Grant applications at the January board meeting.

2020 Annual Plan of Work: The board members have received a draft for the 2020 plan of work. Ideas for 2020 events were discussed.

Memo from IASWCD: The State Soil Conservation Board is no longer funding their Training Reimbursement Program for 2020.

Manager's Updates: "Waterway Permitting and Stream Etiquette Workshop will take place Dec. 10 th 9 am in Salmon Room. Ag Breakfast will take place January 25 th at 9 am at Exhibit Building. I'm going to help Kara out with the Master Gardener Course this coming spring."

Educator's Updates: "I've been trying to plan ahead for the poster contest I will be doing with the schools this year. I will use my updates to explain how this will work. NACD hosts an annual poster contest. Districts can choose to participate and select local winners. They are then passed on to the state for judging and state winners are then passed to NACD. After the schools' winter break, I will be contacting the schools with information. I will also be offering to come into classrooms to do a presentation that introduces the theme. Posters will be due at the beginning of May. More details to come!"

Poster Contest Budget: The board discussed offering a cash prize for 1st and 2nd place in each of the three categories of the contest. Al made a motion to allow \$225 to be given out in award money. Amanda seconded. Motion passed. We will wait to see the interest in the contest before deciding on funding for supplying the poster boards.

PSS/CRP Agreement: We are waiting on payment for quarter 2. The agreement ends Dec. 31st with no word so far on further county involvement.

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Rule 5: No update.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm. Motion was made by Laura and seconded by Al. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.