

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
August 7, 2019
SWCD Office — 5 PM

The meeting was brought to order at 5:05 pm by Chairperson, Scott Stephenson. Those in attendance were as follows: Cara Bergschneider, Bonnie Closey, Keith Kirk, Amanda Perkins, Scott Stephenson, Al Weber, and Laura Young.

The agenda was reviewed and approved as written.

Amanda moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Al seconded; motion carried. Minutes were signed by board members.

The claims were reviewed. Motion made by Laura that claims be accepted, with the note that 2 payroll vouchers for Courtney McGuckin needed to be signed by Allison Shoaf. Amanda seconded; motion carried.

Old business:

The annual plan of work was reviewed.

The county budget hearing is coming up on August 20. Laura and Scott will be in attendance, with the budget information that's been prepared. Other board members were invited to attend as able. Our hearing is scheduled at 6:15; we plan to be there at 5:30.

We were invited to consider 2020 IASWCD resolutions. There are none proposed.

New business:

NRCS: Cara Bergschneider reported on NRCS issues. She has had some family time recently and missed our last meeting therefore. She has worked with an excellent intern this summer, Brittany. Brittany's time is already concluded.

She was pleased to report that the long awaited Soil Health Trailer has arrived. It will be located in Vincennes. While it is primarily available to the SW district, it could be used anywhere else in the state by request and priority approval.

Priority will be given to number of participants in the audience. Ideas were discussed for its use locally. Cara also mentioned that 2 soil health events will be upcoming in the Bloomington area; she will follow up with an email to our board with details.

She also mentioned that the new forester, Amy Spalding, a former DNR forester, has begun work in their office. This position is partially funded by the National Wild Turkey Federation. While her focus will be in Brown and Monroe counties, she will be able to serve 10 counties.

A recent article in the Bloomington Times Herald about a new initiative for monarch habitat has resulted in Cara receiving 29 calls about this program. Not all the people would qualify for this particular initiative, but other programs might be suitable instead. She also discussed the new CSP-GCI program through NRCS, which would supplement payments for farmers for a further 5 years that previously received annual payment through FSA for having a corn base but is no longer eligible for the payment with changes to the Farm Bill 2018. In order to be eligible the land has to have been in permanent vegetation for at least 10 years, agree to stay in permanent vegetation for the future five years and not have an invasive plant issue. She has 4 applications in each Brown and Monroe counties. She also mentioned there is \$900,000 available for farmers who suffered because of the wet spring, and could use this money for cover crops through the EQIP Disaster program. There appear to be no applications likely for Brown or Monroe counties, although some farmers did get ahead and plant cover crops earlier, in respect of the season. She noted that cover crop seed supply is tight. Our office does have some left over cover crop seeds available for her to mention.

We acknowledged our recent completion of the civil rights annual training.

We will have the locally led working group meeting at the October meeting, beginning at 4:30 PM.

Septic Summit: Al Weber will attend the upcoming Septic Summit program in Brown County and will distribute the coupons for septic clean-out that we approved at the last meeting.

IASWCD Region meetings: No one local will attend.

CWI 2020: A letter of support and approval was brought to the board. Al moved, and Laura seconded, that we submit this letter. Motion carried. Scott signed the letter.

Indiana Woodland Steward: Al moved, and Laura seconded that we approve \$500 of support for the publication of the Woodland Steward. Motion carried.

Employee Updates: Allison Shoaf's maternity leave began August 5 (baby, Ruby Marie, was born August 4.). Allison's report is contained in writing on the agenda for this meeting.

Courtney McGuckin will work as able until her baby is born. Due date is August 9. Her report is contained in writing on the agenda for this meeting.

PSS/CRP agreement: No update

Rule 5: No update

Meeting was **adjourned** at 6:25 pm. Motion made by Laura; seconded by Al, passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Laura Young.