

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
5/7/2020
Online Zoom Meeting- 5:30 pm

The meeting was brought to order at 5:34 pm by chair Scott Stephenson. Those in attendance were as follows: Cara Bergschneider, Courtney McGuckin, Amanda Perkins, Allison Shoaf, Scott Stephenson, Nathan Stoelting, Al Weber, and Laura Young.

The April board meeting was cancelled due to county COVID 19 restrictions.

Al made a motion to accept the March minutes. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

Laura made a motion to accept the March and April Financial Report and Claims. Al seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Summer Intern: Applicants were interviewed through Skype. Cameron Reoch was selected and will begin May 18th.

2020 Mini Grants: Grants are continuing as planned. We will keep in mind that projects may be delayed or need extra time.

SWCD Business Plan: Amanda, Scott, Allison, and Courtney edited the previous business plan. A final draft will be ready to be reviewed at the June meeting.

Annual Plan of Work: Allison has created a revised APoW to reflect the schedule changes due to COVID 19.

New Business:

NRCS: NRCS employees are working with no face to face contact with customers. Cara has been working in CART, the new ranking system for EQIP. The USDA has created a Conservation Innovation Grant. Cara recommended using the grant to create a demonstration patch opening on private land. It could be used to teach about young forests. There is also a new grant promoting urban agriculture and local fresh food availability. Cara's intern will start in June and work with her for 6 weeks. Cara will be attending the ICP webinar coming up. CRP is creating a new 30 year program called Clear 30.

Election of Officers: Laura made a motion for Scott to remain in the Chairperson position for the BCSWCD board and for Amanda to become the Vice Chairperson. Al seconded. Motion passed.

BCNWP-BCSWCD Contracted Position: We received the first quarter reimbursement payment from the Brown County Native Woodlands group.

Manager's Updates: Allison is back working in the office with limited access to the public. "I've been attending weekly Zoom meetings with my Region. ISDA anticipates CWI 2021 funds could be affected

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but nothing is official yet. We received our \$10,000 from the state on April 24 th by direct deposit. We also received our final PSS payment in the amount of \$858.38. All of our planned programming, include fall programs like Nature Daze and 4 th Grade Field Day, are moving along. However, we will be sure to have a plan B, and even plan C, incase restrictions are still in place.”

Educator’s Updates: “I have been working with members of BCNWP to get familiar with all of their systems. After their annual meeting, I checked their different databases (paypal, dropbox, email subscription list) to make sure all members were synced across lists. I am working to create a system of automated emails for memberships and donations.

In mid March, I submitted a grant application for 4th Grade Field Day to SCI REMC. The amount requested was approximately \$2,000, covering the bus transportation and shirts. They have tabled the application for now and will review it in July. The composting workshop is TBD and Junior Nature Camp will hopefully be at the end of July. The Spring newsletter went out mid April. The poster contest that I had planned to do with the schools is now virtual. Students can create any sized poster from home, take a picture of it, and submit it through email. I am trying to still keep our Facebook page active, so let me know if you find anything interesting to share during this quiet time.”

FoLM 319 Grant: Any work with the public has been halted. The steering committee is still meeting. Allison is attending the steering committee meetings.

Rule 5: IDEM has hired a new Storm Water Specialist.

Meeting adjourned at 6:05 pm. Motion was made by Laura and seconded by Al. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.