

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
8/6/2020
Online Zoom Meeting- 1:00 pm

The meeting was brought to order at 1:04 pm by chair Scott Stephenson. Those in attendance were as follows: Jim Allen, Cara Bergschneider, Courtney McGuckin, Amanda Perkins, Cameron Reoch, Allison Shoaf, Scott Stephenson, and Laura Young.

The July board meeting was cancelled. The staff emailed these updates in lieu of the meeting:

Manager's Updates: "I presented to Rotary on June 11th and it went very well. I had a lot of interest in volunteering with Salt Creek Preservation Group. So I might host an event or call-out meeting of some kind later this summer. Cameron and I finished up the North Fork Salt Creek Survey. He's written up a report to summarize what we saw and I hope to share it with you all at our August board meeting. We might paddle sections of the Middle and South Fork of Salt Creek as well. Additionally, Cameron is working on some maps to go along with this project. Requests for site visits have been picking up a bit. The Native Plant Stewardship Course is going well, we have 5 attending in person and 2 online. Last week, SICIM held their annual meeting virtually. They presented me with the volunteer of the year award as this was my last year as treasurer. I still plan to stay on the board but removing myself from an executive position will free up my time to focus on local efforts. I'm going to publish the cover crop seed order soon, so please share that if you wish. Our county budget estimate is due July 10th so I am going to submit that with decreases to our "professional services" and "education and training" line. We can discuss this at our August meeting which will give us time to adjust our estimate if need be. Lastly, we've already gotten news that both the IDEA and IASWCD Annual Conf. will likely be virtual. Although, the business meeting might still take place in person"

Educator's Updates: "The worm composting workshop is on Thursday, July 9th at 6pm in the shelter house at Deer Run park. Anyone who would like to stop by and watch is welcome to. I will also be providing a Zoom in option for participants. The summer newsletter will be going out the first week of July. I will be working on creating more classroom programming over the next few months that we may have to use for a virtual "4th Grade Field Day". Native Woodlands has been busy as we prepare for Nature Daze. I am working on advertising for that. We are also working on getting merchandise to sell at our annual events."

Allison added State Board of Accounts Audit Report and IASWCD Trainings to the agenda.

Laura made a motion to accept the June minutes. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

Amanda made a motion to accept the June and July Financial Report and Claims. Laura seconded. Motion passed. The board also discussed and approved the monthly fee for an office Zoom account.

Old Business:

SBOA Audit Report: The audit was done virtually. There were no findings, and we passed.

Annual Plan of Work: Allison's annual evaluation will happen in November. The Staff/Supervisor outing will happen before the September board meeting. Everyone will bring their lunch and sit outside of the

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office. Allison will show the projects that have been happening behind the building. Nature Daze is happening virtually this year as well as 4th Grade Field Day. Our county budget hearing is on August 18th. Small adjustments to our budget will be presented. Scott and Allison will attend the hearing.

New Business:

IASWCD Trainings: The IASWCD supervisor trainings are being held virtually in August and September. Scott and Laura plan to attend some of the trainings.

Al Weber remembrance and recognition of service: The board discussed several possible ways to memorialize Al's service to the community. These included an event in his honor with other local organizations, a plaque dedicated at our annual meeting in 2021, a bench at the gardens behind the office, and the renaming of the gardens behind the office.

NRCS: Cara has noticed that our local working group rankings have helped keep the acceptance rate high in Brown County. Ten out of twelve applications were accepted in our county. This equates to \$150,000 obligated through contracts for work in Brown County. Cara also has 25 applications selected in Monroe County which is keeping her very busy.

IASWCD Updates (Dues, Resolutions, Annual Conf.): Laura made a motion to pay \$2,000 in dues to the IASWCD. Amanda seconded. Motion passed. The board did not have any resolutions to submit. The annual conference will be held virtually in January 2021.

Intern's Summary: Cameron Reoch's last day is today. He has been working on creating a report for the Salt Creek Survey he and Allison conducted over the summer. The creek took 4 days to paddle. They found only a few bad erosion and trash spots. However, there were many log jams. Cameron also created an educational model displaying 18 conservation practices. This model could be used at events such as the county fair.

2020 Well Water Testing Program: Fifteen tests have been given out so far. Allison has placed advertisements in the paper and news is also spreading on social media.

FoLM Watershed Sampling Blitz: The sampling blitz is on Sept. 18th from 9am to 4pm. Participants must pre-register by Aug. 28th. Allison has still been meeting with the FoLM group on Zoom every other month. A quarterly report of their work is posted on their website.

BC Government COVID procedures and protocol: The Brown County government has updated their COVID plan and the policy is in place. The SWCD office complies.

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Manager's Updates: "I have stayed busy with site visits over the past several weeks. We have a lot of interest in mini grants this year. I wrapped up our last NPSC Class on Tuesday and overall it went really well. From here on out though, I will plan to offer only in person or only Zoom events. I just found it challenging to juggle both at the same time. I've been in contact with the IMN director about offering a virtual only class this winter. I'm also going to participate in a practice virtual women's learning circle to measure its effectiveness. Both Nature Daze and 4 th Grade Field Day are moving to virtual programs and my IDEA fall conference has been cancelled. I've been getting a ton of pond and lake questions recently so I might look into hosting a program and/or putting out some resources."

Educator's Updates: "We finally held the Worm Composting Workshop that was postponed from March. Three people attended in person. One more person was signed up to come in person and one was scheduled to join via Zoom, but they did not attend. The workshop went really well. I would be interested in helping offer this in the future, especially as I have more experience with my own compost. The summer newsletter was sent out at the beginning of July. 4th Grade Field Day is going to be very unconventional this year. We have commitment from a few of the presenters to do virtual programming. I would also like to provide some virtual programming. I am waiting back to hear from the teachers about how they would like to go about it. I envision it happening spread out throughout the semester instead of on one day.

Work for Native Woodlands has picked up over the last few months. We held a member event on July 18th that I helped publicize and attended. The group is also wanting to have merchandise available for purchase. I have been working with a shop in Bloomington to get quotes and create designs. Nature Daze is also being rearranged this year. We are busy right now wrapping up our planning, creating advertising materials, organizing the plant sale, and working with other groups to confirm locations to use in our driving tour version of Nature Daze."

Rule 5: Allison is talking to Amber Stone with IDEM about checking some sites in the county: The Brown County Humane Society and Salt Creek Trail.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 pm. Motion was made by Laura and seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.