

Minutes
Brown County Soil & Water
Conservation District
2/4/2021
Zoom - 1:00 pm

The meeting was brought to order at 1:02 pm by chair Scott Stephenson. Those in attendance were as follows: Jim Allen, Cara Bergschneider, Liz Marthaler, Courtney McGuckin, Amanda Perkins, Scott Stephenson, Sara True, and Laura Young.

Jim made a motion to accept the January minutes. Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Liz clarified the purpose of deposits made into the checking account. Amanda made a motion to accept the January Financial Report and Claims. Laura seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business:

Annual Plan of Work: The Ag Breakfast is being moved to March 23rd. Liz will schedule a time to get signatures from the board members for monthly SBOA submissions.

IASWCD Annual Conference: The board and staff participated in this year's virtual conference. They enjoyed many of the topics.

Internal Controls and Policy Manual: We will add a new signature page with the updated board members on it. Laura made a motion to accept the edits. Amanda seconded. Motion passed.

BC SWCD Annual Meeting: Liz attended other districts' annual meetings to see how they are running theirs. The board discussed in more detail how voting will be done virtually. We will include a section designated to AI with pictures of him and the memorial garden. Bill Daniels and Natalie Marinova have agreed to be this year's speakers covering the topic of propagation of native species.

New Business:

NRCS: Liz, Cara, and Allison completed the cover crop transect survey. Cara's office is still closed to the public. Cara has been working on EQIP planning and finishing up site visits. Selections for EQIP will start to be made in March and contracts will be set up in April. Cara will be getting a summer intern again. The IASWCD funded a few Urban Soil Health Specialist positions. There is a state coordinator that will be selecting for the 4 open positions soon. They will cover 23 counties. It will be a 5 year position.

2021 Mini Grants: One more contract was turned in. There are two left to be submitted.

AFR/Internal Audit Committee: The AFR is almost complete. Liz is waiting for some information from the county auditor. The board will set up a time for the internal audit once the AFR is turned in.

Educator Position: A subcommittee was formed to hire the new Educator. The committee will consist of Scott and Amanda along with Liz. Liz will work to get materials ready for advertising with the hope of hiring someone in mid-March. This will allow an overlap between Courtney and the new Educator.

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FoLM Watershed Plan Update: The Friends group had a meeting in January. They are working on two studies: one involving large wet weather events and one involving wake boarding on Lake Monroe.

Manager's Updates: "I have received all the 2020 financial information so I will be able to begin the AFR and finish up 2020's SBOA Monthly Engagements as soon as I get the needed signatures. I have submitted the 100R, paid our sales tax, issued our 1099's, and sent the BCNWP-BCSWCD invoice. Courtney, Kara, and I are working on the Ag Breakfast currently with input from Farm Services on how to best move forward. This month I presented to the BC Rotary Club on what the BCSWCD offers the community. The attendees were very interested in invasive species and one attendee reached out to set up future presentations for a separate organization he's a part of. Overall the program went well. I attended the Nashville Town Council meeting via Zoom on 1/21/21 and was appointed to the Nashville Tree Board. I have been attending many Zoom webinars and listening to podcasts on invasive species identification and best management practices, backyard habitats, water quality in ponds, How to complete the AFR, and other related content including many live and recorded sessions for the IASWCD Annual Meeting."

Educator's Updates: "Kara Hammes, Liz, and I have met twice in January to discuss Ag Breakfast plans. The tentative plan is to have it in March when we can do some sort of outdoor, in person gathering. I attended many meetings for the IASWCD conference including some recorded ones. The newsletter went out at the beginning of January. The poster contest is being advertised in many places. The Native Woodlands planning meeting is Jan. 27th. Liz and I will both be attending."

Rule 5: Liz met with Amber Stone of IDEM to go over Rule 5 materials. Liz plans to help review plans with Amber. There is one new project in Helmsburg.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20 pm. Motion was made by Laura and seconded by Jim. Motion passed.

Minutes taken and submitted by Courtney McGuckin.