

*Hybrid*  
**ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**April 19, 2021**  
*~Draft~*

**Present:** Supervisors: *Tom Kercher, Alex Wait, Dale Leer, Dean Rink, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark, Jenna Wait*; Associates: *Keith Miller*; NRCS: *Wes Krug*.

**Absent:** Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kaufman, Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; ISDA District Support Specialist: Jennifer Thum; ISDA Support Specialist: Heath Hurst; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker.

The board meeting was called to order by Tom Kercher at 5:30 pm.

The March 15, 2021 board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Rink/Shover*

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS:**

EQIP Finished Funding 3 Conservation Activity Plans Funded

4 Other General Funding Pool Plans funded.

Across the board around 25-30 percent of all applications were funded throughout the state

Will be working with area office, foresters, and other conservationists to better understand ranking technology and situations that could be offered to participants to better increase their chances of being funded.

No singular practice applications in cropland and forestland was approved for funding.

Applicants now will need to focus on bundling multiple practices in order to have a better chance at receiving funding.

Conversions of Cropland to Forest, Grazing, and Wildlife Practices have the best chances on being funded.

Going forward at Local Work Group Meetings I know have a Better understanding of what resource concerns should be voted on to help people receive more points so suggestions at the next local work group meeting will be different.

All CSP renewals and CSP applications were selected for funding this year. That is 2 out of 2 applications.

**ISDA:**

Not in attendance.

**County Surveyor:**

Not in attendance.

**Extension:**

Not in attendance.

**District Business:**

\*Conservation Credits: Jim talked the Conservation Credits Program with the Board.

\*Tree Delivery/Tree Sale 2022: We had 4 DNR orders that Jim delivered around the county. We are talking about whether or not we will have our 2022 Tree Sale and how it will be handled.

\*SWAMP Projects and Updates: Only one large project and that is the Wegener's (Grassed Waterway's) with 115 ac. Draining towards it.

\*Education Projects: Moving the website/IMN Class/Rain garden/Rain barrel workshop, Project WET/WILD and Hoosier Riverwatch. Jenna did a 4-H presentation on worms recently.

\*Tillage Transect: Heath/Wes/Jim did the tillage transect on April 10<sup>th</sup> , they found more hay fields than in the past, a lot of cover crops and tilled ground.

**Financial Business:**

The vehicle log was signed.

The rubber stamp was not used.

The monthly financial reports, budgets were approved on a motion by *Shover/Leer*

Claims for the following were signed:

Common Ground Distributors (\$28.52 – IMN Books); INterra Credit Union (\$352.49 – Office Supplies/Postage).

The board meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM *Wait/Rink*

**Next Board Meeting ~ Hybrid: May 17, 2020 - 5:30 pm  
SWCD Office  
59358 County Road 7 Elkhart, IN 46517**

**SWCD Board Chairman  
Tom Kercher**

**SWCD Board Vice Chairman  
Alex Wait**

**SWCD Board Member  
Dale Leer**

**SWCD Board Member  
Dean Rink**

**SWCD Board Member  
Darrell Shover**

**Recording Secretary  
Lora Atkins**