

ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

August 15, 2022

Present: Supervisors: *Tom Kercher, Alex Wait, Dale Leer, Dean Rink, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Jenna Wait*; Associates: *Keith Miller*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst*; NRCS: *Wes Krug; Farmer, Tom Perry*.

Absent: Associates: David Bontrager, Gary Kaufman. Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker; District Support Specialist: Sandra Hoffarth.

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

The July 18, 2022 board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Leer/Rink*

Agency Reports:

NRCS:

Local Work Group Meeting needed to be set up. Discussed that it should happen at 6:30 after next regular meeting in September.

Discussed that CRP is what is currently being worked on in the office.

EQIP for the year has concluded.

A new CRP signup is around the corner and will be announced shortly.

ISDA:

Summer District Meeting is in Huntington County @ \$25/ea. Ducks Unlimited has partnered with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Archer-Daniels-Midland Company (ADM), United States Dept of Agriculture (USDA) and Farmers Business Network (FBN) to Incentivize producers in both Indiana & Michigan to implement 75,000 acres of cover crop to improve water quality and wildlife habits.

County Surveyor:

Goshen Dam Pond is coming back up again. Foraker/Southwest/Tecumseh Acres drainage meeting next week @ Ramer center.

Extension:

Not in attendance

District Business:

*Native Plant Sale: We had 9 orders come in that will be available for pick up Sept 20-23 at our office.

*Forestry Field Day: Oct 22 at the Elkhart Community Schools ACCELL Farm with G. Philip Robertson as our speaker, from 9-12

*District Business Plan: Our 2023-2026 Business Plan was approved by our Board. Shover/Leer

*Conservation Farmer of the Year: We want to give our Conservation Farmer of the Year award to Joe Brown this year.

*General Permitting Updates: Todd is out of the office today!

*Education Updates: Green Earth Day @Fair/Augmented Reality Sandbox @ Fair/Elkhart County Museum-Sandbox/EnviroFest/RiverFest/Poster/Kerplops/Cornholes/HoosierRiverWatch Training coming up with Dylan Allison

*2022 INAFSM Annual Conference: The board approved for Jim/Todd to attend in South Bend @ \$265/ea. Shover/Leer

*Budget Hearing: August 24 from 8:30 – 9:45 if any of the board members want to join us they are welcome!

*Election Committee: Our Election Committee is as follows Darrell Shover, Chairman, Alex Wait & Tom Kercher. Dale Leer has agreed to another three year term of office, and Dean Rink has also agreed for another three year appointment.

Financial Business:

The vehicle log was signed.

The rubber stamp was not used.

The Gateway Reports have been uploaded and reviewed by the Board.

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

Claims for the following were signed:

INterra Credit Union (\$411.54 – 2022 IMN Class Supplies & Speaker Gifts); Indiana Natural Resources Foundation – IMN Fund (\$180.00 – Admin Fund 18 Participants); INterra Credit Union (\$1,377.03 – Postage/Office Supplies/Special Projects/INAFSM Renew/INAFSM Annual Mtg).

The board meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM *Wait/Rink*

**Next Board Meeting: September 19, 2022 - 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**