

Hybrid
ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 15, 2021

Present: Supervisors: *Alex Wait, Dale, Dean Rink, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark, Jenna Wait*; Associates: *Keith Miller*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst*;

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

The board meeting was called to order by Alex Wait at 5:35 pm.

The January 25, 2021 board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Rink/Leer*

Agency Reports:

NRCS:

Not in attendance

ISDA:

Indiana Farm Bureau will host a three part webinar series on farm sustainability starting 2/24. Learn more and register at infarmbureau.org/events. Tillage Transect 10 days after 40° or higher, they have minimized how we do it down to 3 options of tillage, Cover Crops Y/N, and Covid-19 protocols.

County Surveyor:

Not in attendance. But Jim talked to Phil he said they had DNR, Army Corp and Cardno walk through to look at Turkey Creek to look at the watershed and sediment traps.

Extension:

Not in attendance

District Business:

*79th Annual Meeting Format & Elections: Jim explained how we plan to use the State's Zoom account so we can use their polling for our voting.

*Award Winners for Conservation: Friend of the SWCD – Mike Yoder, Conservation Farmer of the Year – Woodsbrook Farms, Inc., Urban Conservationist of the Year Tony Harman, Educator of the Year – Krista Daniels, River Friendly Farmer - Stoney – M Farms.

*NACD Presentation: Jim's live presentation went well; he received 26 emails from that presentation. He also received a phone call from a professor from Purdue University who is looking for 6 farmers in Elkhart/Wells/Whitley counties, to do Nitrate/Phosphorus studies.

*Rule 5 Updates: Meeting with Stormwater Partnership (Powwow), he will start doing his inspections on Tues/Wed/Thur. We had 3 plans come in since Friday, and we expect 2 more to come in this week. We had a pre-con meeting today in our office; we showed them some of the tools that we have at our disposal.

*SWAMP Projects and Updates: We still have a few applications coming in. Jim has a few Grassed

Waterways that are being worked on, he is working with the Wegener's in the beginning stages.

*Education Projects: Website ideas, last month Jenna brought an idea about changing our website over to Constant Contact, and then she talked to Matt Dietz and he suggested adding it to the Counties website, so we are still waiting to hear from them to know if this is possible.

Contracted Labor – Jordan Shedd online Module training program for the Elkhart County Education portion of the Rule 5. Approved by the board to come out of Special projects \$7,000 *Leer/Shover*

IMN Class will be all over the county starting May – July.

IDEA Membership Renewal: The renewal for 2021 is \$100, the board agreed. *Rink/Shover*

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/Rink*

No Claims this Month...

The board meeting adjourned at 6:50 PM *Shover/Leer*

Next Board Meeting ~ Hybrid: March 15, 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