

ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2022

Present: Supervisors: *Alex Wait, Dale Leer, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Jenna Wait*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst*, Elkhart County Auditor: *Patty Pickens*, Elkhart County Councilman: *David Hess, Scott Morehouse, Matt Morehouse, Brent Reed, Carl Stoltfus, Lowell Stoltzfus, Tim Stoltfus, Jim Weeber*.

Absent: Supervisors: Tom Kercher, Dean Rink; Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kaufman, Keith Miller. Staff: Todd Clark. Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; NRCS: Wes Krug, Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker.

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

The January 10, 2022 board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Shover/Leer*

Agency Reports:

NRCS:

Not in Attendance

ISDA:

CWI Training funds are now available for SWCD supervisors and staff for trainings that fall between March 16, 2021 and March 15, 2022. The funds will be available in the form of reimbursements and are reserved for training registration fee reimbursements only. The application can be found on Conservation Link, or requested through the cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov or your DSS. Applications should be submitted to cleanwaterindiana@isda.in.gov.

County Surveyor:

Not in attendance

Extension:

Not in attendance

District Business:

*Conservation Credits Illustrations: We had a large group in attendance for Jim's presentation. Jim went through his PowerPoint to explain to the group, how the program would work.

*Tree Sale Update: We now have 127 orders in as of today with over \$10,000 in sales. We asked the board for help during they just asked for us to remind them that week.

*Winter Cover Crop Workshop: "Capture the Credits" on March 16, 2022 10 am – 4 pm with lunch served \$10 at the Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds.

*Rule 5 Updates: Transitioning to new Construction Stormwater General permit. We have been helping to transfer all current NOI's to the regulatory e-portal, closeout projects that are completed, and educate project designers on the changes. In an effort to better understand these changes John Heiliger, Phil Barker, Jim Hess, and Todd Clark all attended LTAP conference at Purdue University. We gained a better a better understanding (still not full) of the changes in the permit and have begun preliminary discussions on ways we can better assist landowners and operators in keeping projects compliant. Posting Public Notices on our Website. Providing a location for landowners and operators to locate information that is requires for the permit. (Those that may not have access). Jenna and Todd created a more in depth, obvious path on the new website to assist in being com-

pliant in Elkhart County. Todd overhauled the PermiTrack inspection site to coincide with the new requirements of the permit and to simplify what it is our self-inspectors are looking at on the job-site. As the weather improves Todd will resume site inspections.

*Education Updates: Seed Swap/Jenna has been delegating future education dates since she is due in the next few weeks.

*Notary Information: We have had several instances when we have needed a Notary Public for Stormwater, so we have checked into what it would involve to have Lora to become a Notary, the board approved up to \$200
Leer/Shover

*Power of the Past, Present, & Future: Jim talked about doing a no-till planting.

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 *Leer/Shover*

Claims for the following were signed:

Penny Stroup (\$150.00 – 2021 Yearly Audit); IDEA (\$100.00 – 2022 Dues); Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds (\$1,000.00 – Capture the Credits Workshop Deposit); INterra Credit Union (\$220.39 – Postage/Office Supplies); Dale Leer (\$510.97 – IASWCD Annual Conference Expenses); Darrell Shover (\$462.08 - IASWCD Annual Conference Expenses); Michelle Miller (\$4,500.00 – Speaker Fee); INterra Credit Union (\$1,486.72 – Office Supplies/Postage/Ed & Conference Costs/Sustenance (Hotel & Meals).

The board meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM *Shover/Leer*

Next Board Meeting: March 21, 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