

ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

February 24, 2020

Present: Supervisors: *Alex Wait, Dale Leer, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark, Jenna Wait*; Associates: *Gary Kauffman, Keith E. Miller* NRCS: *Amanda Kautz*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst*.

Absent: Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell; 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 5:30 pm.

The January 27, 2020 board meeting minutes were approved on a motion by *Leer/Shover*

Agency Reports:

NRCS: Amanda went over the following topics:

Farm Bill – Application Deadlines are March 27th

Program rollout meeting for Northern Indiana is March 12th

Release Date for new SSURGO – Web Soil Survey

2021 National No-Tillage Conference will be back in Indiana

Extension: Not in attendance

Elkhart County Surveyor: Not in attendance

ISDA (Heath Hurst): IASWCD is looking for State House Legislative visits, but you must have at least three Supervisors/staff to book a visit.

District Business:

*Annual Meeting Preparations: We went over our program, looked at the Annual report and talked about the centerpieces.

*Cover Your Future Meeting: Everything is lined up, we will be getting the meat from Yoder's, the sides and desserts from Dal-mar Catering.

*Native Plantings: Elkhart Career Center is putting seeds into bags, and trying to see how things are going to go. They are taking ownership of the program, so we are hoping things turn out.

*Master Naturalist Program: We have 14 signed up for the class that have already paid, there is a max of 20 for the class.

*Conservationist Position: Todd Clark started on 2/10/2020. They met today at the Stormwater meeting to talk about the SWAMP #'s. Then about an education center it would be a good place for us to have meetings at, Contractor's meeting's, etc. but not limit ourselves to just this site.

*River Clean up Kit: Jenna has been working with Annie Klehfoth from the Elkhart Environmental Center, to put together these kits which have pool skimmers/trash pickers/gloves/vests/buckets in them.

District Business:

~Dates to Remember~

Cover Your Future Workshop – March 4th – ECCC Bldg, Elkhart County Fairgrounds

Elkhart County SWCD Annual Meeting – March 5th – Martin Room, Elkhart County Fairgrounds

MS4 Annual Meeting – May 12th – Indianapolis – Jim/Todd/Jenna will be attending – Jenna will be presenting about the Augmented Reality Sandbox.

Financial Business:

The vehicle log was signed.

The rubber stamp was not used.

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

Claims for the following were signed:

Keith E. Miller (\$145.62 – IASWCD Annual Conference Expenses); Common Ground (\$224.18 – 2020 Jr IMN Books); Office Depot, Inc. (\$249.05 – Paper for Annual Reports/Binder & Pocket folder for IMN); INterra Credit Union (\$156.84 – Signs/Flower pots for Annual meeting); Indiana District Employee Association (IDEA) (\$100.00 – 2020 Membership Dues – Jim Hess/Lora Atkins/Todd Clark/Jenna Wait); Office Depot, Inc. (\$175.60 – IMN Class Supplies); Laser Accents, Inc. (\$608.70 – 2019 Annual Meeting Awards/Nameplate Name badge – Todd Clark).

The board meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM *Shover/Leer*

Next Board Meeting: March 16, 2020 - 5:30 pm in the SWCD Office.

**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**