

ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2020

Present: Supervisors: *Alex Wait, Dale Leer, Dean Rink, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Jenna Wait*; Associates: *Keith E. Miller*; NRCS: *Amanda Kautz*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst*, Elkhart County Surveyor: *Phil Barker*.

Absent: Supervisors: Tom Kercher; Staff: Lora Atkins; Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kauffman; Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; ISDA District Support Specialist: Jennifer Thum.

The board meeting was called to order by Alex Wait at 5:33 pm.

The December 16, 2019 board meeting minutes were approved on a motion by *Rink/Leer*

Agency Reports:

NRCS: Amanda went over the following topics:

Environmental Quality Incentives Program

Extension: Not in attendance

Elkhart County Surveyor: Handed out the Elkhart County Stormwater Manual Contractor guide-lines/expectation when working in Elkhart county. Jim/John will be taking manuals to engineering companies and going through it with them. They will take copies and ask them to hand out to contractors with plans. They will be given to contractors at pre-con meetings.

ISDA (Heath Hurst): Senate bill 46 is trying to get anything zoned Ag, owned by a school, hospital, or church exempt from stormwater fee is stalled at the moment. NIGC is February 7th & 8th; Conservation Tillage and Technology Conference Ada, OH March 3rd & 4th, Shared Tillage Transect Report, SB99 Study committee on invasive species.

District Business:

*Annual Meeting Preparations: Awards ordered – Still needed some photo's for annual report, paper arrived on Friday – Urban Award, Andy Knox – Asked for Board suggestions for Menu: Fried chicken, roast beef, Cheesy potatoes, corn, green bean casserole, salad, rolls and pie.

*Cover Your Future Mtg: Agenda is set – NRCS Soil Health Team will have a booth – Local meteorologists will be attending. Purdue weather trailer will be set up – Cover Crop centerpieces are up & going at Elkhart Career Center – Ribeyes? – Yes, we will do them with sides from Dal-mar catering.

*2020 IDEA Membership: Due before the end of March, \$25/employee. Board agreed for 4 employees.

Shover/Leer

*SWAMP Projects and Updates: Spent approx. \$30,000 in 2020 already – Kent Sawyer will be retiring – 4 Grass Waterway and 1 Filter Strip will be going in on Baugo Creek area in 2020.

*Tree Sale Update: Our Early Bird Totals are: 76 orders with \$5,789.34 in sales.

*Native Plantings and ID Booklet Potential Idea's: Add to Tree Sale and move to Fall – Use Elkhart Community Schools to grow plants – sell at tree sale and split profits, make bundles with trees and natives – Making local version of NRCS seedling ID guide – Student at ECS helping make it.

*Master Naturalist Program: Working on planning next class for this spring (May – June Thur 6-9 pm) We will still get books and binders – also provide backpacks to hold all the other items. Each class will have “Outdoor adventure skill”. One Saturday with alumni to network with related item.

District Business:

~Dates to Remember~

Northern Indiana Grazing Conference – February 7th - 8th – Shipshewana

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

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

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:

INterra Credit Union (\$538.23 – Hotel/Meal – Muck Boots Jim Hess & Jenna Wait); Indiana Department of Revenue (\$810.62 – Indiana Sales Tax – 2019); Penny Stroup (\$150.00 – 2019 Yearly Financial Audit); Elkhart County 4-H Fair Agri & Expo (\$337.50 – Annual Meeting Rental 19 in 20); Thomas Kercher (\$520.18 – 2020 IASWCD Annual Conferences Expenses).

The board meeting adjourned at 7:05 PM *Rink/Shover*

Next Board Meeting: February 24, 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**