

ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

July 15, 2024

Present: Supervisors: *Alex Wait, Darrell Shover, Dale Leer, Keith Miller, Dean Rink*; Associates: *Tom Perry*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark, Jenna Wait (Via phone)*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst*; District Support Specialist: *Sandra Hoffarth*; CCSI: *Lois Mann*.

Absent: Associates: David Bontrager, Gary Kauffman, Tom Kercher; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker; Purdue Extension: Robert Kelly; Acting NRCS: Jorge Loyozza; Dennis Badke, Tom Kercher.

The board meeting was called to order by Alex Wait at 5:30 pm.

The June 17, 2024, board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Rink/Leer*

Agency Reports:

NRCS:

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

- Working on certifying practices and paying 7 contracts. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)
- Working on 1 CRP application.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- 1 application is approved.
- Working on 3 applications.
- Modifying 1 contract.
- Working on certifying 1 contract completed practices.

Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)

- Area biologist is assisting in completing the on-site visits. Wetland/HEL Determinations
- 29 HEL Determinations
- 10 WC Determinations

Meetings or Trainings:

Several Teams meetings

Elkhart County SWCD Monthly Board Meeting

Wetland Restoration & Enhancement Training

ISDA:

Board Certification/Training Program (BCP)

Summer Summits are August 20th 6-8 pm Columbia City

Greg Lake is Retiring

Emily Clark is replacing Ryan Owen at Pheasants Forever

CCSI:

Lois Mann was at our meeting and passed out a booklet about (CCSI) Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative, and upcoming events.

County Surveyor:

Not in attendance

Extension:

Not in attendance

District Business:

*Pay Dirt IN-Field: There is a lot more participation this year. Jim talked about what is going on with set-up, we are about a month out from the event, we plan to have a couple food trucks.

*319 Grant NOI Submittal: They liked what Jim submitted so far; the budget portion will need to be submitted by September.

*Native Plant Sale: We have 7 orders, 2 weeks before our deadline on July 26th.

*CWI Quarterly Submittal: We have until July 31st to submit our 1st report.

*SWAMP Projects: County Solar Project meeting tomorrow with Savion.

*General Permit Updates: Mid-year 2023 we had received 49 plans, this year we have received 54, we have terminated 46 so far this year. We have 299 open projects, 158 inspected projects, Dennis Badke has inspected 7 projects.

*INAFSM Annual Conference: Jim & Todd would like to attend the Annual Conference on September 11-13
Shover/Leer

*Education Updates: Boys & Girls Club/IMN Class/ARS Library/Hoosier Riverwatch/Elkhart County Fair Green Day & Ag Hall

*2024 Plat Books: They are in, and we are going to charge \$25 ea. *Leer/Miller*

Financial Business:

The vehicle log was signed.

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

The monthly financial reports were approved on a motion by *Leer/Shover*

Claims for the following were signed: IASWCD (\$5,000 – 2024 IASWCD Dues); INterra Credit Union (\$794.29 – Postage/Education/Vehicle Repairs/Dues/Ed & Conference Costs); INterra Credit Union (214.33 – 2024 IMN Class Books & Supplies); Mapping Solutions (\$1,590.00 – 2024 Elkhart County Plat Books – 75 + Shipping).

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

Next Board Meeting: August 13, 2024 - 5:30 pm
SWCD Office
59358 County Road 7 Elkhart, IN 46517

SWCD Board Chairman
Alex Wait

SWCD Board Vice Chairman
Darrell Shover

SWCD Board Member
Dale Leer

SWCD Board Member
Keith Miller

SWCD Board Member
Dean Rink

Recording Secretary
Lora L Atkins