

ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES
July 18, 2022

Present: Supervisors: *Tom Kercher, Alex Wait, Dale Leer, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark, Jenna Wait*; Associates: *Keith Miller*; District Support Specialist: *Sandra Hoffarth*.
NRCS: *Wes Krug*;

Absent: Supervisors: Dean Rink; Associates: David Bontrager, Gary Kaufman. Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker; ISDA Support Specialist: Heath Hurst.

The board meeting was called to order by Tom Kercher at 5:35 pm.

The June 20, 2022 board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Leer/Shover*

Sandra Hoffarth introduced herself to the board and telling everyone her background and that she started in her position in January of this year.

Agency Reports:

NRCS:

EQIP 2 more wildlife contracts funded. These include cover crops. 1 more CSP contract funded on cropland. This also includes cover crops and nutrient management. Continuing on to work on CRP plans now as well. Completing EQIP currently as well.

ISDA:

Not in attendance

County Surveyor:

Not in attendance

Extension:

Not in attendance

District Business:

*Native Plant Sale: As of Today we have 3 Native Plant orders...

*Forestry Field Day: We are planning on having our Forestry Field Day on Oct 22nd from 9am-12pm at the ACCELL Farm, Phil Robertson will be bringing his research team with him.

*Conservation Farmer of the Year: We talked about a winner, Darrell will talk with this person and will see if they agree.

*District Business Plan: The Board looked over the changes we have made so far, there were no complaints, we will bring the final business plan to the next board meeting for approval.

*Elkhart County Fair Display: We will be going out to setup our AR Sandbox on Tuesday from 1-4 pm

*SWAMP Projects: Jim finished the Reed's last week.

*General Permitting Updates: Things have slowed down. As of July 1st General Permits/NOI's have to be entered on IDEM's website. Jayco has 5 new bldg's, Maple City Chapel is starting their project.

*Education Updates: Ag in the classroom/Invasive Plant ID/Woodlawn Nature Camp/Growing Kids/AR

Sandbox-Middlebury/AR Sandbox-Nappanee/Green Earth Day @ Fair/EnviroFest Island Park/RiverFest-Middlebury/IMN Ends this week.

* 2022 INAFSM Annual Conference: The board approved for Jim/Todd attend in South Bend @ \$265/ea. Shover/Leer

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 *Wait/Leer*

Claims for the following were signed:
IASWCD (\$2,000.00 – 2022 IASWCD Dues).

2022 Sexual Harrassment Training - Complete

The board meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM *Wait/Shover*

Next Board Meeting: August 15, 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