

# ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2020

**Present:** Supervisors: *Tom Kercher, Alex Wait, Dale Leer, Dean Rink, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark, Jenna Wait*; NRCS: *Amanda Kautz*; Associates: *Keith Miller*; Elkhart County Council: *David Hess*.

**Absent:** Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kaufman; Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; ISDA District Support Specialist: Jennifer Thum; ISDA Support Specialist: Heath Hurst; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker.

The board meeting was called to order by Tom Kercher at 5:32 pm.

The May 18, 2020 board meeting minutes were approved on a motion by *Leer/Shover*

## **Agency Reports:**

### **NRCS:**

*COVID-19 – Office Status (We are at Status 1)*

*Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Funding will start 6/22*

*This is will be Amanda's last board meeting her last day will be June 30th, Kris Green will be our acting 2 -3 days/week.*

### **District Business:**

\*River Friendly Farmer Award: Ernest Miller – Stoney-M Farm, State Road 13, Middlebury was chosen for Elkhart County.

\*Conservation Farmer Award: Jim asked the board to think of recipients for the award, at the July board mtg.

\*CWI Grant: Jenna spoke about what we would like to do for the CWI Grant and our Education Center, she showed an illustration, along with a business plan. The board gave the approval to move forward, the deadline to submit is September. Jim has spoken with Elkhart Community Schools and Ivy Tech about partnering with us, he has also had 3 counties contact him about partnering with us on this grant.

\*Educational Equipment: We have been given a whiteboard from the Elkhart Community Schools, Jim would also like to purchase a 75" TV & mount for the large wall in our conference area, so it would be easier to put Stormwater plans up there, or if we needed to have a webinar or zoom meeting we could have everyone on there. The board approved it since we had the money in capital supplies, not to exceed \$1,500. *Leer/Shover*

\*Rule 5 Updates: 10 submitted awaiting approval from the entities. We are closing out NOT's in a timely manner, Todd has been working with a lot of the project owner's.

\*SWAMP Projects and Updates: SWAMP has been kind of slow lately, Mike Brown is wanting a culvert on his property. Jim doesn't know if it can be done, he is working with the highway department to see if it is possible. Mike has a Grassed Waterway in the field nearby.

**District Business:**

**~Dates to Remember~**

IDEA Fall Conference October 6 – October 8, 2020 - Muncie, IN

IASWCD Annual Conference January 11-12, 2021 - Westin, Hotel - Indianapolis, IN

NACD Annual Meeting February 6-10, 2021 - New Orleans, LA

**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 *Wait/Shover*

Claims for the following were signed:

Neil Detweiler (\$141.30 – 2020 Tree Sale Cancellation – Refund Check re-issue 4891).

The board meeting adjourned at 7:00 PM *Wait/Leer*

**Next Board Meeting: July 20, 2020 - 5:30 pm at the New SWCD Office,  
59358 County Rd 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**