

*Hybrid*  
**ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 15, 2021**

**Present:** Supervisors: *Tom Kercher, Alex Wait, Dean Rink, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark, Jenna Wait*; Associates: *Keith Miller*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst*;

**Absent:** Supervisors: Dale Leer; Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kaufman, 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 Tom Kercher at 5:30 pm.

The February 15, 2021 board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Shover/Rink*

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS:**

All federal buildings are operating at 25 % capacity. So NRCS will be conducting much of their business from home teleworking currently

SWCD has offered the NRCS a temporary office. NRCS is grateful for this and will occasionally use this space for conducting visits and meetings with farmers when the space at the fairgrounds is not available.

EQIP ranking has finished after delays in software temporarily hindered the ranking process from occurring on time. There are 25 applications for the 2021 EQIP program in Elkhart county.

CSP re-enroll applications are due by March 21<sup>st</sup>.

April 15<sup>th</sup> is the due date for CCC-902 forms to be filed with FSA in order to keep in compliance with all NRCS programs. Used to be required just for entities and now all contract holders and applicants must have this form filed with FSA to be eligible for NRCS programs.

A New FPAC secretary was sworn in on February 28<sup>th</sup>

New Guidance will be coming for regulations pertaining to wetlands. New Indiana bill maybe passed in the coming days that would change some regulations on wetlands. When more information comes available I will report on it accordingly.

**ISDA:**

Tillage Transect is required to run from April 4<sup>th</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>. Cover Crop Incentive \$5/per ac is piloting in the upper white.

**County Surveyor:**

Not in attendance.

**Extension:**

Not in attendance

## **District Business:**

\*79<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Recap: We thought it went well but we are hoping this is the only year we have to do our Annual Meeting this way. We are looking to honor this years award winners at next years Annual meeting.

\*Rule 5 Updates: The Willows/Miller-Stutsman Creek, the counties attorney is going through past PSCMP plans, so approvals are on hold he's looking for clerical errors, etc. City of Elkhart – 3 plans on hold. City of Goshen – 2 plans on hold. Todd & John will be going over one tomorrow that is in litigation.

\*SWAMP Projects and Updates: We have two waterways, the Hunsberger's and Wegener's. Jim spoke to the board about an idea he has to further the SWAMP program where the participants can either take the payment or they can take a tax credit.

\*Education Projects: Hoosier Riverwatch training May 15 and September 3. WET & WILD June 17, the Cost is \$25 which includes the book. Rain garden & Rain barrel workshop on March 9<sup>th</sup> went well, we have 4 more to go. The IMN class is scheduled from May 26 – July 14 the cost is \$175.00.

## **Financial Business:**

The vehicle log was signed.

The rubber stamp was not used.

The monthly financial reports, budgets were approved on a motion by ***Rink/Shover***

Claims for the following were signed:

Indiana District Employee Association (\$100.00 – 2021 Membership Dues); Laser Accents (\$457.40 – 2020 Annual Meeting Awards); INterra Credit Union (\$172.03 – Office Supplies/Postage).

## **Reorganization:**

Standing Committees: Annual Meeting (Dale Leer); Research Committee (Dean Rink); Election Committee (Tom Kercher).

Board Positions: Chairman (Tom Kercher); Vice Chairman (Alex Wait); Treasurer (Lora Atkins).

Financial: INterra Credit Union

Board approved ***Shover/Rink***

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

**Next Board Meeting ~ Hybrid: April 19, 2020 - 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**