

**ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 21, 2022**

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

**Absent:** Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kaufman. Staff: Jenna Wait. Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker.

The board meeting was called to order by Tom Kercher at 5:30 pm.

The February 21, 2022 board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Leer/Rink*

**Agency Reports:**

**NRCS:**

*Talked about Civil Rights and Equal opportunity*

*Talked about delivering posters to hang that are required in the new office*

*Talked about possible opportunities with the Amish and Confined Livestock EQIP in General*

*Talked about scheduling some events possibly with the SWCD and Amish Community using different Cooperation's as gateways like Natural Family Farms or Culver Duck*

**ISDA:**

*Talked about doing the Transect Next Tuesday with Wes and Jim*

**County Surveyor:**

Not in attendance

**Extension:**

Not in attendance

**District Business:**

\*Conservation Credits Feedback: Jim attended Goshen's Floodplain mtg last week, he spoke about what they talked about. He showed a video that that was shown on the news.

\*Tree Sale Update: We ended up with 158 orders with close to \$13,500 in sales, Jim asked the board members for help during the tree sale since we were not sure how much help we have.

\*Notary Information Update: Last month the board gave their approval for Lora to become a Notary Public, as long as the cost didn't go above \$200, she gave an update on the cost which was \$186.22.

\*Native Plant Sale: Jim talked to Cardno they now have a Fall Planting Plug Kit, so we will work on moving forward with this and getting the dates due.

\*Education Updates: 4-H groups/Soil health Class/Fairfield 4-H/Ag Days/ACCELL Farm

\*Rule 5 Updates: Septic Installers Mtg/Parks Dept/Contractors w/City of Elkhart/Training w/Town of Bristol's new employee Tim McCandless. We have received 18 new projects in our office waiting for approval.

\*Forestry Field Day: Jim would like to have one in Sept/Oct with the subject of Logging/Harvesting, he asked the board if they know of anyone interested in hosting to let us know.

**Reorganization: Shover/Leer**

Standing Committees (Annual Meeting, Research Committee, Election Committee)  
(Election Committee – *Alex Wait, Dean Rink, Darrell Shover*)  
Board Positions (Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer) *Same*  
Financial Institution *INterra Credit Union*

**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:

First Place Trophy (\$358.98 – 2021 Annual Meeting Awards); Jim Hess (\$182.08 – Supplies for “Capture the Credits” Workshop); Alpha Nurseries, Inc (\$1,389.00 – 2022 Tree Sale – Final Payment); Engel’s Nursery, Inc (\$1,418.90 – 2022 Tree Sale – Final Payment); Hensler Nursery, Inc(\$1,700.00 – 2022 Tree Sale – Final Payment); David Hess (\$1,180.86 – Food for the “Capture the Credits” Workshop); INterra Credit Union-County/District (\$1,482.95 – Office Supplies/Postage/Gas/Tree Sale Supplies/Notary Background Search-Exam-Supplies/Hotel for “Capture the Credits’ Speaker).

The board meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM *Wait/Rink*

**Next Board Meeting: April 18, 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**