

# ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 20, 2017

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**Present:** Supervisors: Tom Kercher, Alex Wait, Dale Leer, Dean Rink, Darrell Shover; Staff: Jim Hess, Deb Jimison; Associates: Keith E. Miller; NRCS: Amanda Kautz; ISDA District Support Specialist: Heath Hurst, Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker.

**Absent:** Staff: Jordan Beehler; Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kauffman; Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; ISDA: Jennifer Thum.

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

The October 16, 2017 board meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Leer/Shover.

## **Agency Reports:**

**NRCS: EQIP Application Deadline:** Producers interested should submit a signed application by December 15<sup>th</sup> to the local NRCS field office. A new requirement for FY18 is that participants in EQIP must meet eligibility requirements by January 26. The eligibility deadline is new for EQIP for FY18. Participants should be ready to complete all eligibility forms at the time of application or soon after to allow FSA and NRCS to process the information. NRCS staff will work with producers to determine eligibility and complete necessary worksheets and rankings in order for the applicant to compete for funding. **2018 FFA Convention:** Special thanks to the partnership staff assisting with this year's judging events and tradeshow. Over 65,000 students and advisors attended this year's event. The conservation partnership helped with the Natural Resources and Environment field practicum where students had hands-on experiences with GPS mapping, water quality testing, soil science and more. **Earth Team Volunteer Summary:** Congratulations to all of our field offices for successfully meeting the national goal of 100% of offices utilizing at least one Earth Team Volunteer during fiscal year 2017! Total Hours: 11,060

**Extension:** Not in attendance.

**ISDA:** Heath talked about Infield Advantage is gauging nitrogen levels, IDEM survey nonpoint source, and new ISDA Director should be named next week.

**Annual Meeting Committee:** Tom Kercher is our elected, and Darrel Shover is our appointed this year. The board agreed not to have a speaker this year.

## **District Business:**

\*2016 Clean Water Grant: Invoices are starting to come in.

\*SWAMP Projects: Andy Stump is ready for his project in the spring of 2018.

\*Winter Cover Crop Meeting (Bank on Your Roots): Date, time and speakers are set. We will be working on agenda, core samples will be taken on Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:30 am, Jim Hess will house the sample until they are ready.

\*Foraker Septic Update: Phil Barker discussed the cost and how we can help that situation.

\*Soil Scientists Certification & Membership: Deb Jimison's dues were approved by the board.  
Leer/Shover

\*Education Program Update: Jordan and Jim met with Danae Wirth and discussed curriculum, they will meet monthly, the Women's Conservation Club steering committee will meet on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to kick off a discussion about a mini field trip.

\*IASWCD Annual Conference: Jim handed out the resolutions for the board to look over until the December meeting.

\*Interlocal Agreement with Stormwater: There was a motion made to accept the new updated Interlocal Agreement with Stormwater. Shover/Leer

### **Financial Business:**

The vehicle log was signed by Alex Wait

The rubber stamp was signed by Tom Kercher

The monthly financial reports, claims and budgets were approved on a motion by Wait/Rink. Claims for the following were signed: National Association of Conservation Districts (\$775.00 – 2018 NACD Dues); Jason Burkholder (\$1,800.00 – 2016 CWI Grant – 90 ac. Cover Crops); Brett Whitehead (\$1,240.00 - 2016 CWI Grant – 62 ac. Cover Crops); Jeremy Weaver (\$1995.58 - 2016 CWI Grant - 108 ac. Cover Crops); Steve Warner (\$2,618.99 - 2016 CWI Grant – 180 ac. Cover Crops); Jason Burkholder (\$700.00 - 2016 CWI Grant – 35 ac. Cover Crops); Sunrise Orchards, Inc. (\$6,360.00 - 2016 CWI Grant – 318 ac. Cover Crops); Darrell Shover (\$3,160.00 - 2016 CWI Grant – 158 ac. Cover Crops); Marvin Roush (\$460.00 - 2016 CWI Grant – 23 ac. Cover Crops); Jim Hess (\$19.08 – Cookies for planning meeting).

The board meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM. Shover/Leer

**Next Board Meeting: December 18, 5:30 pm in the SWCD Office.**

**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 Callahan**