

ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

October 16, 2017

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

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

The board meeting was called to order by Alex Wait at 7:05 pm.

The September 18, 2017 board meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Leer/Rink.

Agency Reports:

NRCS: USDA Top Position Nominations: Stephen L. Censky has been nominated to serve as the new USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. **Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs:** Indiana's State Department of Agriculture Director Ted McKinney has been selected as the new Undersecretary for Trade and Foreign Agriculture Affairs.

ACEP – WRE: The easement offer values (Geographic Area Rate Caps, GARC) are out for FY2018 and are the same 2017. Application deadline will be set soon and are likely to be mid-January.

EQIP Application Deadline: Producers interested in EQIP should submit a signed application by December 15th to the Goshen NRCS office. Included in this sign up are several state and national initiatives including: National Organic Initiative: Statewide, National On-Farm Energy Initiative: Statewide, Monarch Butterfly Habitat Development Initiative: Statewide, Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative. **PSS Training:** The Program Support Specialists have been invited to attend the 2018 Farm Bill Roll out training sessions to be held in each area.

Extension: Not in attendance.

ISDA: Heath mentioned that ISDA has a new story map located at <http://www.in.gov/isda/2991.htm>. The new SharePoint is up and running.

District Business:

*Election Committee: Darrel Shover (Reappointment), Tom Kercher (Election). Leer/Rink

*Clean Water Indiana Grant: Jim explained what is going on with the 2016 CWI grant and getting our 2nd half of the money of the grant, the county has said they will advance us the money, then we will pay it back we get it.

*SWAMP Update: Jim told the board where each project is and where they are located.

*Winter Cover Crop Planning Meeting: Jim talked about what he is wanting to happen with the next Winter Cover Crop meeting, so he talked to the board to see who would be available to come in for a planning meeting the next time it rained in late October.

*Education Program Update: Stormwater grant – Jim talked to John Bowers at the Landfill about education, they are looking to possibly putting an educational building there. Jim also talked to Chris Himes about recycling and catering at the new American Farmer’s Market.

*Winter SWCD Meeting Times: The board agreed to change our meeting times to **5:30 pm** starting in November through February.

*IASWCD Annual Conference: We talked about who would be attending the Annual Conference this year, we already have hotel rooms booked Lora just needs to know who is attending, she has given everyone a deadline of November 1st so that she has enough time to get the paperwork and payment turned to CMC Global. The board approved any of the staff who want to attend can do so. Rink/Wait

Financial Business:

The vehicle log was signed by Alex Wait

The rubber stamp was not used

The monthly financial reports, claims and budgets were approved on a motion by Leer/Shover. Claims for the following were signed: IDEA (\$250.00 – Registration Jim Hess & Jordan Beehler); Staples Advantage (\$74.97 – 2018 Tree Sale Green Paper); Interra Credit Union (\$99.36 – MYSGA Supplies); J & K Septic Service, LLC (\$265.00 – MYSGA Workshop Portable Potties/Hand Washers); IDEA (\$125.00 – Registration Lora Callahan); Dal-Mar Catering (\$320.00 – MYSGA Workshop 80 @ \$4 ea.); DNR Administrative Services (\$50.00 – 2018 Tree Sale – Nursery License).

The board meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. Shover/Leer

Next Board Meeting: November 20, 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**