

# ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## October 19, 2020

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

**Absent:** Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kaufman; Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; ISDA District Support Specialist: Jennifer Thum.

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

The September 21, 2020 board meeting minutes were approved on a motion by *Rink/Wait*

### **Agency Reports:**

**NRCS:** *Wes ran the Locally Led Meeting after our Board Meeting.*

### **ISDA:**

11/12 & 11/19 ~ Soil & Water Conservation Society Hoosier Chapter Workshop.

11/17-18 ~ 2020 National Cover Crop Summit: Fall Edition

### **County Surveyor:**

Demo of the new drone to be done on November 21<sup>st</sup>.

### **District Business:**

\*Tree Sale/Native Plant Sale: We are wanting to do the IDNR Tree Pick up this year since we are unable to our Tree Sale this year, since the species we wanted are unavailable. Jim and Jenna have been working with the Elkhart County Parks Dept. and wanting to have a Native plant sale in mid-May.

\*2020 Plat Books: The plat books are in, and we now have our flash drives with the 2020 plat books on them, we are selling the plat books for \$25 + the flash drives for \$35, if you want just the flash drive it will be sold for \$15. The board approved. Shover/Leer

\*IDEA Mtg Recap: It was the first meeting since March, Jim noticed that there was a lot of new people at the meeting, and they were trying to figure out what they're doing. Jim is thinking of having a Rule 5 training when it is our turn for an IDEA meeting to share what we do.

\*Governor's Excellence Award: Jim met with the Governor and there were a total of six winners. He shared for 10 minutes about the SWAMP program.

\*Rule 5 Updates: Todd has been working on NOT's and closing out projects. He has **4** outstanding in the City of Goshen. **5** outstanding in the City of Elkhart. **1** outstanding in Elkhart County, waiting for approval.

\*SWAMP Projects and Updates: Lora sent out close to 100 letters with application to old order Amish who are interested in the SWAMP program.

\*2020 Elections: Tom Kercher and Darrell Shover's term are up at the end of this year. Both have agreed to stay on.

**District Business:**

**~Dates to Remember~**

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

**Financial Business:**

The vehicle log was signed.

The rubber stamp was signed.

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

Claims for the following were signed:

INterra Credit Union (\$589.44 – Office Supplies/INAFSM Annual Mtg/Electronic Supplies/IMN Supplies);

Indiana Natural Resources Foundation (\$170.00 – 17 IMN Participants @ \$10/ea.).

The board meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM *Wait/Leer*

*Locally Led Meeting* – started at 6:45 pm and ended at 7:30 pm, we had Jessica Merkling (IDNR North Urban Biologist) and David Hess (Elkhart County Council) attended in addition to who was at our board meeting.

**Next Board Meeting: November 16, 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**