

ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2024

Present: Supervisors: *Alex Wait, Darrell Shover, Keith Miller, Dean Rink*; Associates: *Tom Perry*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark, Jenna Wait*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst*; NRCS: Acting District Conservationist, *Deb Knepp*; Dennis Badke and SJRBC Matt Meersman.

Absent: Supervisor: Dale Leer; Associates: David Bontrager, Gary Kauffman, Tom Kercher; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker; District Support Specialist: Sandra Hoffarth.

The board meeting was called to order by Alex Wait at 5:30 pm.

The September 16, 2024, board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Rink/Miller*

Agency Reports:

NRCS:

Elkhart County NRCS Report
September 16 – October 18, 2024

Conservation Stewardship Program:

Modify contracts – 4

Verify and Certify enhancements for payment – 7

Meet with client to discuss seed mixes and fields they should be planted – 1

Site visits to verify cover crops - 6

Environmental Quality Incentives Program:

Meet with client to discuss what was completed - 2

Met on site with new client for small farm application

Process payment – Tree planting and firebreak

Conservation Reserve Program:

Seeding mix and certification of firebreak

Process and mail Highly Erodible Determinations - 12

Meetings and Trainings:

NRCS Area Meeting

FY25 Program Rollout – 2 day

ISDA:

Election Committee needs to be turned in by 11/1 – Dale Leer, Keith Miller, Dean Rink (Back up Tom Perry & Tom Kercher)

County Surveyor:

Not in attendance

Extension:

Not in attendance – Extension Annual Meeting is October 22nd. Mark Evans has been hired as their new Educator, and he will be starting at the beginning of November.

SJRBC: Installing of flow monitoring/water quality monitoring/Notre Dame impact of practices upstream downstream, benefit in Goshen because of flooding.

District Business:

*CWI Grant: JD Farms planted 4.5 ac of Enhanced Field Borders.

* District Showcase Award: On November 6th, NRCS/ISDA/IASWCD will be at our office at 10 am to interview us and go to see some of our fields/projects.

*PAY DIRT 2025 Planning: Speakers will be: Phillip Anderson/Tom Kilcer/Chuck Brandel/Rodney Rulon/Frederick Whitford, we will have credits available.

*SWAMP Projects: We have 6-8 new anticipated participants.

*General Permit Updates: New project Cherry Creek is to start in Goshen, the Inspector is coming into the office tomorrow for CSGP training with Todd. We have closed out projects that haven't started yet, Lora will start sending out Renewals soon.

*Education Updates: Jenna finished her 2nd Ivy Tech class and will start her 3rd class in January 25th. She worked with Goshen Jr High in Shanklin Park, Macros with Bethany, Poster contest distribution at the Elkhart County schools. EEAI and overnight approved by the board *Shover/Miller*

*NACD: Dues are \$775. The board approved *Miller/Rink*

*Watershed Leadership Academy: Jim asked the board for their approval to attend the Watershed Leadership Academy, he is planning on applying for a scholarship if not accepted the board approved paying the \$950 *Miller/Rink*

Financial Business:

The vehicle log was signed.

The Gateway Reports have been uploaded and reviewed by the Board.

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

Claims for the following were signed: Woodland Steward Institute (\$250.00 – Newsletter); IDEA Conference (\$600.00 – Jim Hess/Lora Atkins/Todd Clark/Jenna Wait); INterra Credit Union (\$2,095.45 -Tree Sale Supplies/Pay Dirt/Fox' Smoke 'N' Grill Food Truck/Pay Dirt Hay Huey Food Truck/Pay Dirt FB Boost/Pay Dirt Supplies/Pay Dirt Food; INterra Credit Union (\$320.97 – Postage/Office Supplies/ Conference/Sustenance /Truck Wash/Special Projects; JD Seed Farms (\$1,044.88 – Enhanced Field Border); Alpha Nurseries, Inc (\$216.00 – Add'l Deposit); INterra Credit Union (\$85.19 – Tree Sale License); INterra Credit Union (\$1,109.05 – Postage/Office Supplies/Clothing/Website).

The board meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM *Miller/Rink*

Next Board Meeting: November 18, 2024 - 5:30 pm
SWCD Office
59358 County Road 7 Elkhart, IN 46517

SWCD Board Chairman
Alex Wait

SWCD Board Vice Chairman
Darrell Shover

SWCD Board Member
Dale Leer

SWCD Board Member
Keith Miller

SWCD Board Member
Dean Rink

Recording Secretary
Lora L Atkins