

# ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## September 18, 2017

**Present:** Supervisors: Tom Kercher, Alex Wait, Dale Leer, Dean Rink; Staff: Jim Hess, Lora Callahan, Jordan Beehler, Deb Jimison; Associates: David Bontrager, Keith E. Miller; Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink; NRCS: Amanda Kautz; ISDA District Support Specialist: Heath Hurst; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker; Elkhart County Councilman: David Hess.

**Absent:** Supervisors: Darrell Shover; Associates: Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kauffman; Purdue Extension: Robert Kelly; ISDA: Jennifer Thum.

The Locally Led Meeting was called to order by Jim Hess at 6:35 pm

The board meeting was called to order by Tom Kercher at 7:10 pm.

The August 21, 2017 board meeting minutes were approved on a motion by Leer/Rink.

### **Agency Reports:**

**NRCS: Deputy Secretary:** Stephen L. Censky has been nominated to serve as the new USDA Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Mr. Censky is the American Soybean Association's (ASA) Chief Executive Officer. As ASA's top executive, Censky is in charge of managing ASA's legislative, trade policy, international market development, communications, and leadership development programs. Originally from Missouri, Censky was a corn/soybean farmer and worked with USDA on the 1990 farm bill.

**FFA Volunteers Needed:** The FFA National Convention and Expo will be returning to Indianapolis this year and will run from October 25-28, 2017. As in year past, NRCS will be supporting the Natural Resources and Environment Judging events and is asking for volunteer assistance from partnership staff.

**Protracts Shutdown:** Protracts will be shut down from September 29<sup>th</sup> to October 9<sup>th</sup> for end of year rollover, payment paperwork must be to Amanda by September 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Extension:** Jeff had been at the Advisory Board Meeting, weed resistance was news, they had 256 complaints none of which were from Elkhart County, and Dicamba is looking to have changes on the label. Insects (Asian Garden Beetle) has been the main topic on the Master Gardener hotline.

**ISDA:** NNE Staff Meeting on September 27<sup>th</sup> – IASWCD Annual Conference, Peterson Brothers will be the Keynote Speakers – SharePoint rollout has been postponed.

### **District Business:**

\*Election Committee: Alex Wait is the Chairman, Dean Rink, Dale Leer, and Keith Miller. Tom Kercher and Darrell Shover's term are up this year.

\*NNE Region Meeting Follow-up: Jim, Jordan, and Deb attended, they learned some insight into what other districts are doing right now.

\*Clean Water Indiana Sign-up: Cover crop – We have put out as many acres of cover crops in the past week, as we did last year. If you know of anyone who wants to put cover crops in have them contact Jim Hess.

\*SWAMP Sign-up and Update: The Attorney is working on the Interlocal agreement.

\*Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy: Jordan & Deb have shown interest in attending this class, there is a scholarship that they are applying for that is available through the Friends of the St. Joseph Watershed Initiative, and the board voted that whether or not they received the scholarships, they can attend. Rink/Leer

\*Teacher Education Event: Jordan is forming a Committee to help with a one day workshop, it is coming along slowly since there is only 3 days available. She is looking to replace the education grant that is currently in place.

\*Adjoining Districts Meet and Greet: St. Joseph County has shown interest in working with us in the future.

\*Rain Gauge Update: The rain gauges are here and we handed them out after the board meeting.

\*Make Your Soil Great Again Workshop Recap: Jordan sent out surveys after the workshop, so far we've received 15 back and the results are they either liked one speaker or the other, and they would like Dave Brandt again. We have a new Affiliate member out of the workshop Elkhart County Cattlemen's Association, Ron Martin would also like for us to be part of his program, and we have 4 new cover crop participants.

\*Pasture Walk Oct 12, 2017 at Larry Yoder - 4370 W 200 N, LaGrange, IN.

### **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: New Paris Tent Rentals, LLC (\$1,024.90 – MYSGA Tent/Tables/Chairs Rentals); Interra Credit Union (\$503.64 – EnviroTestKits Water Test Kits); The Farmer's Exchange (\$235.80 – MYSGA – Advertising); Jim Hess (\$452.05 – MYSGA Food/Ice/Charcoal); Engel's Nursery (\$240.00 – 2018 Tree Sale Deposit); Alpha Nurseries, LLC (\$469.00 - 2018 Tree Sale Deposit); Hensler Nursery, Inc (\$687.50 - 2018 Tree Sale Deposit); Purdue Extension (\$61.60 – MYSGA – Printing).

The board meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM. Rink/Wait

**Next Board Meeting: October 16, 7:00 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**