

# ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## September 19, 2022

**Present:** Supervisors: *Alex Wait, Dean Rink, Darrell Shover*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Jenna Wait, Todd Clark*; Associates: *Keith Miller*; NRCS: *Wes Krug*; *Farmesr, Tom Perry, Dennis Badke*.

**Absent:** Associates: David Bontrager, Gary Kaufman. Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker; ISDA Support Specialist: Heath Hurst; District Support Specialist: Sandra Hoffarth.

The board meeting was called to order by Alex Wait at 5:35 pm.

The August 15, 2022 board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Rink/Shover*

### **Agency Reports:**

#### **NRCS:**

Wes Krug District Conservationist is moving to take the job of Soil Conservationist in Illinois out of the Woodstock office. Last Day at the office will be November 1<sup>st</sup>. Troy Manges DC for Marshall County will be the acting conservationist taking over in my place. CRP plans have officially been completed and not CRP reviews for field visits are in process. Equip Visits are also in process. CSP payments will be processed in early October so verification for all payments are occurring.

#### **ISDA:**

Not in attendance

#### **County Surveyor:**

Not in attendance

#### **Extension:**

Not in attendance

#### **District Business:**

\*81<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting Dates and Location: The board agreed on March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds, with Dal-mar catering.

\*Affiliate and Membership Discussion: We decided to keep our donation amounts the same.

\*Winter Meeting Discussion: Jim mentioned a couple speaker for a winter meeting for February '23.

\*NACD Carbon Pilot Program Project: They have a 5 Year Study that you can put up to 500 acres per farm. Wes would need tracking #'s, Jim would like 5 farm's to start out.

\*Native Plant Sale Pickup: Plants have been picked up and Lora sent out reminder emails to the buyer's to remind them to pick them up this week.

\*Forestry Field Day Agenda: Jim handed out the agenda to the board.

\*Tree Sale Info: The Tree Sale Committee met last week, we have 12 species selected for the 2023 Tree Sale it will be March 22 – 25, 2023. Lora has 99% of the order form done and will start printing them and mailing them out soon.

\*SWCD/Stormwater Budget Updates: Our budgets went through fine, final approval hasn't come through yet.

\*General Permit Updates: NPDES Training/INFASM conference/Hoosier River Watch Class. NOT/Renewal – 150 email’s will be going out soon.

\*Education Updates: EnviroFest/RiverFest/Hoosier RiverWatch/North Ridge HRW/Christopher – HRW Training.

**Financial Business:**

The vehicle log was signed.

The rubber stamp was not used.

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

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

Claims for the following were signed:

INterra Credit Union (\$302.72 – 2022 IMN Class Supplies); Alpha Nurseries, Inc (\$1,403.00 – 2023 Tree Sale – Deposit); Cardno, Inc (\$1,080.00 – Native Plant Sale Proceeds); INterra Credit Union (\$1,178.84 – Postage/Office Supplies/Special Projects/Vehicles Repairs/NPDES Training).

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

Local Work Group Meeting commenced at 6:30. Proceedings took around 45 minutes. SWCD district and NRCS along with other local producers in the area where present. New Resource Concern priority rankings where selected for the year. Priority Concerns reflect a change in EQIP application numbers and interest that is beginning farmers with woods as the predominant application type for the upcoming year.

**Next Board Meeting: October 17, 2022 - 5:30 pm  
SWCD Office  
59358 County Road 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**