

# ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

## September 20, 2021

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

**Absent:** Associates: David Bontrager, Joe Brown, Brian Campbell, Gary Kaufman; Purdue Extension: Jeff Burbrink, Robert Kelly; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker.

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

The August 16, 2021 board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Leer/Rink*

### **Agency Reports:**

#### **NRCS:**

We will be having our Locally Led meeting before our Board Meeting next month at 5:30 pm, then our Board meeting will be at 6:30 pm. Wes is working on EQIP applications.

#### **ISDA:**

INField Advantage Program has been revamped with no previous cover crops.

#### **County Surveyor:**

He did have to say that the Elkhart River is low, due to fixing the toe drain.

#### **Extension:**

Not in attendance.

#### **District Business:**

\*Budget Hearing Update: Last week Dean was at the hearing with Jim, everything went well.

\*SWCD Sign Options: We're zoned Ag, so Jim will have to attend a meeting so that we can have a sign posted for our office.

\*Field Day Structure: September 22<sup>nd</sup> is the 1<sup>st</sup> Field day which will be at Keith Miller's.

\*Tree Sale: Lora has printed and mailed/emailed out Tree Sale order forms, she has started to distribute the order forms as well.

\*Indiana Woodland Steward: We received a letter from them, Jim emailed them wanting to find out who they send their information to, we will decide next month if we will support them.

\*SWAMP Projects: SWAMP Invoices should be coming in soon. SWAMP was approved for \$400,000 for 2022.

\*Rule 5 Updates: Things have slowed down this month, renewals will be going out in the next couple weeks. As of September 3<sup>rd</sup>, we has received 93 plans indicating 888.39 acres of ground being disturbed as a result of construction.

\*Education Updates: Aquatic WILD Workshop/Middlebury Riverfest/Hoosier River Watch/WNIT Documentary "Then Now and Always... St Joseph River Story"/Northridge at Riverbend/Rainscape Workshop/IDEA Fall Conference/8<sup>th</sup> grade Jobspark.

\*2021 Annual Meeting: Election Committee: Tom Kercher/Dale Leer/Darrell Shover – Annual Meeting Date was chosen as March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at the Elkhart County Fairgrounds Martin Room in the ECCC Building with Dal-Mar Catering.

**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 *Rink/Wait*

Claims for the following were signed:

INterra Credit Union (\$1,791.30 – Office Supplies/Postage/Conference Lodging/Meals/Appliances for new office); IASWCD (\$2,000.00 – 2021 Dues); Steuben County SWCD (\$1,000.00 – Use of AR Sandbox); Alpha Nurseries, Inc (\$463.00 - 2022–Tree Sale Deposit); INterra Credit Union (\$510.72 – Special Projects/Postage/Conference Lodging/Meals/Conference – Jenna Wait).

The board meeting adjourned at 7:25 PM *Shover/Wait*

**Next Board Meeting: October 18, 2020 - 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**