

Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monthly Board Meeting Minutes
May 24, 2017 @ 8 AM
3718 New Vision Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46845

Supervisors: Tom Miller, Tom Crowe, Don Rekeweg, Chad Shaw

Associate Supervisors: Ellis McFadden & Dick Crowl

SWCD Staff: Greg Lake, Krista Voors, Kate Sanders, Matt Jones

NRCS: Arthur Franke

ISDA: Nick Alles & Jill Krause

County Council: Eric Tippmann

Supervisors Not in Attendance: Jeff Stieglitz

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 a.m. by Tom Crowe.

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes for the March Board Meeting were reviewed. Tom Miller made a motion to approve the minutes and Don Rekeweg seconded the motion. All approved and motion passed.

Approval of Claims:

Krista reminded the board that the April claims were available for additional review since those were approved without a board meeting being held. Those claims were dated April 26, 2017 with voucher numbers 8208 through 8217, totaling \$20,505.88. She then reviewed the claims, dated May 24, 2017 voucher numbers 8218 through 8230, totaling \$20,672.38. The Deposit Report, Treasurers' Reports, petty cash log, and bank reconciliation reports were also reviewed. Motion to approve the claims, and financial reports, subject to audit, was made by Don Rekeweg and seconded by Tom Miller, motion passed.

Old Business:

- Website – no update at this time.
- PSS Contribution Agreement- Kate gave an update reporting that all field visits and toolkit work had been completed; she is awaiting further instruction to begin the next task.

Ongoing Projects/Grants:

- WLEB In-Field Advantage
 - Enrollment Open – Greg asked the board to help spread the word.
 - Addition of the 2017 Soybean program – each cooperator is allowed to enroll 1 soybean field this year as a trial run for the program.
 - Potential Joint Winter Meeting – there is a possibility that the District will be able to participate in a joint winter wrap up meeting. It is undecided at this time whether this county has been selected and who the other counties involved would be. Two benefits of this option would be the potential for a meeting in December rather than Feb./Mar. and a lunch would be provided to participants and at no cost to the District.
- WLEB RCPP – 6 applications have been approved thus far.
- USGS/GLRI Project –
 - 2016 Wrap Up – Kate reported that the project has been going well and that over 800 samples have been collected so far this year.
 - 2017 Budget Proposal – Greg shared the proposed budget for the second funding period. He will get clarification from USGS on one minor detail (equipment

purchase vs. lease) and will report back. However, Tom Miller made a motion to approve the budget, Don Rekeveg seconded the motion and all agreed; motion passed.

- Kate also reported that a drone crew came up from Kentucky to get infrared on the fields at Bull rapids road in order to detect the existing field tiles. They were successful.
- Upper Maumee 319 P-risk Index Assessment Pilot grant –
 - Report from Steering Committee – Additional suggested changes to the P-risk Calculator have been made.
 - Advisory Committee Report – Calculator was shared with advisory committee for feedback. Committee was happy with what they saw and had some very good questions and things to consider. Minor adjustments were made and the calculator had been submitted to IDEM for approval.
- Potential New 319 grants – Greg shared that he has had many meetings/discussions regarding 319 applications for FY2018. With feedback he received from IDEM, he shared that a request for implementation dollars in a critical sub-watershed in the Maumee or St. Marys would be the best option for the District.

Reports & Updates:

- ACPWQ –Matt gave an overview of what the ACPWQ does, explained MS4 and gave an overview of recent and future activities.
- Purdue Extension – Weed Identification course at the Extension Office on June 14, 2017 7pm; Diagnostic Training for Commercial Pesticides & Fertilizer applicators at NE Purdue Ag Center on June 20, 2017; Ag Day at the Allen County Fair on July 25th – weed scientists and pork specialists from Purdue will be there and there will also be a presentation from a soil scientist on how to pull soil samples.; Farmer Field Day at NEPAC on August 24th. Organic Educator on staff with the state now.
- ISDA – Jill reported that the 2 WLEB Resource Specialist positions are now fulltime positions that will be funded through ISDA starting in November 2017, when the current grant ends. Additionally, she reminded the board that the 2016 District Success Story needs to be completed.
- NRCS –Arthur reported that NRCS received over 40 EQIP applications, so far 19 have been approved and they are working on getting signatures.
- SJRWI – Aug 5th Flow the Saint Joe, Expo 2017 was broken into smaller events, 1 in DeKalb and 1 in Williams County. It was mildly successful, it will be evaluated in order to determine a plan for next year.
- MRBC – Greg Lake gave a brief overview of what the MRBC does and that Rod was unable to attend today.
- TSWA – Greg Lake reported that the Canal boat has been launched. It will be christened on May 31st and a VIP tour will be on May 30th and June 1 will be the River Rendezvous. The DUK boat is ready to go as well.

New Business:

- District presentation for AC Gov. – The District has been asked to give a better explanation as to a corrective action plan for the findings in the 2014 audit. Greg shared some suggestions in order to get feedback from the Board. Greg asked if the board would be okay with the District contracting with a CPA firm to do regular checks on our Quickbooks in order to make sure things are being recorded properly. Tom Miller suggested that Greg meet with the Allen County Treasurer's office first to see if they could assist. The District has been asked to give a presentation to local government officials in order for them to get a better picture of the responsibilities of the soil & water conservation district. This will most likely take place in June.

- Materiality Policy – This policy must be set in place for all SWCD’s due to Internal Controls. Based on the draft policy that was presented Tom Miller made a motion for all numbers highlighted as \$250 shall be changed to \$100 and \$1500 shall be changed to \$500 in sections 2, 3 & 4 and then approval of policy. Don Rekeweg seconded the motion, all approved.
- Cover Crop Interseeder – Currently sitting in Monroe, MI. We were given the approval to use it free of charge for demo purposes again this year but we have to go pick it up. Also Roemke’s would like to use a crimper on their cover crops and it can be showcased at the field day in August. That particular unit is sitting in Jackson, MI. Werling’s in Decatur would like to use it as well.
- 2017 Water Quality Monitoring Program – Greg reported that he is trying to get IPFW students to take over the route but until then he and/or Kate will continue to run the route. Additionally, he is working with the multiple Fort Wayne Rotary Clubs to set up additional sampling sites and their sample analysis will be uploaded into an App. This sampling protocol is much less stringent than the WQMP.

Upcoming Events

- Next Board Meeting – June 28, 2017 @ 8 a.m.
- August 10 – Soil Health Field Day @ Roemke’s
- NEPAC Field Day August 25, 2017

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Approval of minutes as presented:

Chairman

Date