

Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 28, 2024 @ 8:00 am
MEETING HELD IN PERSON and VIRTUALLY via ZOOM
9602 Coldwater Road, Suite 108, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Supervisors; Present: Tom Miller, Chad Shaw, Jain Young, Tom Crowe
Absent: Tyler Stieglitz
Associate supervisor: Don Rekeweg
SWCD Staff: Greg Lake, Courtney Taylor, Gabe Curtis, Mikila Cook, Mark Rekeweg, Rhiannon Lake
ISDA: Lindsay Blum, Sandra Hoffarth
NRCS:
SJRWI:
MWA:
Purdue Extension:
County Council:
Others:
Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM by Chad Shaw

Approval of Minutes

January minutes reviewed. Tom Miller moved to approve claims and Treasurer's report, Tom Crowe seconded, all in favor.

Correct spelling on Watershed details.

Approval of Claims and Treasurer's Reports

January: Accounts Payable totaled: \$126,103.68
 Visa Charges: \$1,980.78
 Deposits Totaled: \$8,895.12
 Accounts Receivable: \$21,827.64
 First Source Bank: \$115,828.92
 Current Asset Balance: \$281,243.76
 CD: \$101,357.37

Tom Crowe moved to approve claims and Treasurer's report, Jain Young seconded, all in favor

1. Election of 2024 Officers
 - Tom Miller nominated Chad Shaw for Chair, Tom Crowe seconded, all in favor.
 - Chad Shaw nominated Tom Miller for Vice Chair, Tom Crowe seconded, all in favor.
 - Tom Miller nominated Jain Young as Treasurer, Tom Crowe seconded, all in favor
 - Chad Show nominated Tom Crowe, Tom Miller seconded, all in favor.
2. Old Business

- Recap of 2024 SWCD Annual Meeting
 - Attendance was down. Next year we will plan for a time that does not compete with a local auction.
 - Internal Controls revisions and approval
 - Mikila will resend Internal Controls for review.
 - MOU with Allen County CISMA
 - MOU is paused for the time being pending the direction that the SBOA takes in allowing SWCDs to act as fiduciaries.
 - 2024 Budget
 - Courtney and Greg revised chart of accounts in quick books. Board will review the changes.
 - Audit committee needs to review 2023 financials. Jain Young, Tom Miller and Tom Crowe will schedule a time to review financials.
 - 2024 budget needs to be completed including asks for purchases and be presented to the board.
 - Employee Reviews
 - Goal is to conduct employee reviews within the next month. Courtney received the county performance appraisal forms. Greg will get reviews scheduled and confer with the board to schedule a time for reviews.
 - Sale of additional SWCD equipment
 - Greg is working with auctioneer to list the District equipment in the upcoming March sale in Wilshire, OH. Eric Ott will get items posted and listed.
 - Greg will check with Eric Ott to see if it is worth separating the air seeder from the tractor. Minimum bid is \$40,000.00
3. Ongoing Projects/Grants
- [NACD Round # 6 TA with NACD](#) (C. Taylor)
 - [Demonstration Farm Contribution Agreement](#) with NRCS (C. Taylor)
 - Meeting is set for Monday with additional counties. Adams, Noble, and DeKalb are interested in working on this project. Monday's meeting will discuss dollar commitments to projects. The agreement is projected to have 5 demo sites.
 - DeKalb is proposing to rent acreage to do a demo plot showcasing conservation practices.
 - Grant went into effect in Sept. 2023. Grant budget is \$900,000 and ends in Sept. 2028.
 - [NRCS Contribution Agreement for Urban / Small Farms](#) (E. Lewis)
 - Update on outreach efforts
 - [Auglaize Watershed](#) (G. Lake)
 - Creation of Auglaize Watershed Group
 - In discussion with Rod Rekenberger, a meeting will be set-up to discuss work in the Flatrock
 - [Development of SWCD Mobile Education Trailer and Displays](#) (M. Cook)
 - Watershed display design with New Tech Academy update
 - It is projected that the display will be finished by Spring Break. The project is progressing and they are at the stage of programming and finishing the build. The District will be

purchasing a TV for the display. If needed we are able to provide a professional carpenter.

- Update on municipal and residential sewer display repairs
 - Repairs are finished
- [Smart Soils Initiative](#) (R. Lake)
 - Project update
- [CRP Contribution Agreement with NRCS](#) (G. Curtis & C. Taylor)
- [USGS-GLRI Project](#) (G. Lake)
 - Edge of Field project update
 - 2-stage Ditch project update
 - A million dollars is committed to the 2-stage ditch project. Currently identifying local partners. The additional work will be paid for out of the MRBC. The site is located on a Lake Farms project. The site has data collected as far back as the 70s. The new data will then be compared to the existing data to determine difference in time.
- [Agricultural Nutrient Resource Recovery Project](#) (G. Lake)
 - Proposed next steps
 - H2Ohio Technology Advancement Project (H2Ohio TAP)
 - Proposed 2024 summer demo project
 - Partnering with Putnam County, OH, the event will be held in Paulding County July 11th.
 - CIG Classic grant application submission

3. Other Reports

- WLEB, Livestock Group
 - Transect work will start shortly.
- IJC Manure Nutrient Management Collaborative
 - Project Report
- ISDA
 - Spring Transect needs to be completed by May 1st
 - Jennifer Thum is the new soil Con director.
- MRBC
 - Watershed Development Commission Bill proposed amendment. The Commission is making recommendations to Rep. Heine by summer to be considered during next session.
- UMWA
 - Should be benefiting from a grant being written by Defiance. Hopefully the UMWA will be involved in the project.
- Save Maumee
 - Tree planting 4/20/2024.
- IASWCD
- SJRWI,
- MWA
 - MWA received Bayer funding in the amount of \$5,000. Waiting to hear on CIG funding. The previous CIG has ended.
 - OHTAP project is finally approved
- NRCS, Purdue Extension,

- [FW Parks Dept.](#)
 - Last bank stabilization effort near the Old Fort has failed. The area is temporarily stabilized.
 - CISMA
 - Committees have been formed.
4. New Business
- Internal Controls revisions and approval
 - Mikila to send via email.
 - Going Green for Ag, Being held 3/14 in Decatur.
 - County Credit Card
 - Mikila will look into to process
5. Upcoming Events
- Next Board Meeting –March 27, 2024

Meeting Adjourned 9:27 a.m.