

Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 26, 2023 @ 8:00 am
MEETING HELD IN PERSON and VIRTUALLY via ZOOM 9602
Coldwater Road, Suite 108, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

Supervisors; Present: Chad Shaw, Tom Miller, Tyler Stieglitz, Jain Young

Absent: Tom Crowe

Associate supervisor: Don Rekeweg (virtual)

SWCD Staff: Greg Lake, Courtney Taylor, Joelle Neff, Mikila Cook. Gabe Curtis, Rhiannon Lake, Jesus Rosario

ISDA:

NRCS: Tim Bomba

SJRWI:

MWA:

Purdue Extension:

County Council: Don Wyss (virtual)

Others:

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8 AM by Chad Shaw

Approval of Minutes

- June minutes reviewed. Tom Miller moved to approve minutes, Jain Young seconded, all in favor

Approval of Claims and Treasurer's Reports

July: Accounts Payable totaled: \$35,490.48

 Visa Charges: \$12,252.00

 Deposits Totaled: \$35,074.19

 Accounts Receivable: \$7,650

 First Source Bank: \$254,610.13

 Current Asset Balance: \$258,271.03

 CD: \$1,357.37

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

1. Old Business

- Preliminary SWCD Strategic Plan
 - Tyler proposes adding more defined metrics to our soil health and water quality goals in reference to nutrients, DO, P and add PPMs goals to stream bank samples. The District will look at the DAP and find regulatory levels that correspond. The District will also look at correlating levels in the WQUIS system and set goals using the available data.

- The Board will look at the plan on the drive and add comments
- Demonstration Farm Contribution Agreement with NRCS (C. Taylor) ○ All the documents are in the hands of NRCS. \$100,000 is allotted for the first year, and renewable after that.
- SBOA Audit status
 - SBOA requested an additional 46 samples and supporting documents. Mikila will complete this request on 7/26/2023
- Update on acquisition of Digital Imagery Drone (R. Lake)
 - Drone has been purchased and has been flown. Imagery was captured while interseeding Lake Farms and Roemke Farms. Rhiannon is working on stitching images and progressing with mapping.
 - Software, Drone Deploy runs roughly \$300.00 per month. Drone Deploy can capture plant health, and plant stress. Rhiannon is reviewing software, capabilities and pricing,
 - Chad Shaw proposes that we put together a plan for drone use. This plan will act to collect data sets for comparison and analysis.
 - Per Tyler Dron Deploy has a light version that includes RGB and flight plans.
 - With the drone we received a free trial of DJI Terra. The current system we are running the drone imagery with does not have the amount of Ram that is needed to run the program.
 - Rhiannon is researching pricing.

2. Ongoing Projects/Grants

- CRP Contribution Agreement with NRCS (G. Curtis)
 - NRCS sent an intern to help with field checks.
 - Allen County work has been submitted.
 - Joelle is working on CD work- deadline is Sept. 1st. Jay County is completed; Huntington and Wabash are in process. Joelle has requested work from additional counties.
 - Tim Bomba will be working with our AC, Keith Williams, to move the process along.
- NACD Contribution Agreement -New application (C. Taylor) ○ Courtney has submitted the preapproval through the state. Courtney will be submitting the proposal in August.
- NRCS Contribution Agreement for Urban / Small Farms (Joelle N.) •
 - Update on outreach efforts
 - Conducted 3 soil tests and 3 visits with growers.
 - Attend a field day with IASWCD to see production on 4 small farms. ○ Still partnering with Easter Seals Arc at Bloomingdale Gardens. ○ Started a Healthy Soils Collaborative Partnership with Purdue Extension and Heartland Communities.
- Soil Carbon Research Project with IUPUI (G. Curtis & C. Taylor) ○

Currently sampling every two weeks.

- Development of SWCD Mobile Education Trailer and Displays (Joelle N.)
 - Watershed display design with New Tech Academy update ▪ Students did not finish the project last year. They will be finishing this fall.
 - Need for additional displays
 - Working with Exhibit Farm on the development of a watershed display. Currently waiting on the quote. This display will be started in the fall. Joelle is also comparing prices with other companies.
 - Exhibit Farm is updating the current septic displays.
 - Display frame install
 - Board will look at trailer after the board meeting.
- USGS-GLRI Project (C. Taylor)
 - Edge of Field project update
 -
 - 2-stage Ditch project update
 - Monies have been appropriated. The sites will be located in the black creek near Lake Farms
 - Potential Blue Creek WQ Auto-Sampler deployment
 - Not sure of the District's involvement at this point. We will continue to provide support as needed to USGS.
 - Located on SR 24, which historically has backwater and sediment issues.
- Auglaize Watershed (C. Taylor.)
 - MRBC commitment to stream flow profile
 - Rod Rinkenberger has reached out the Maumee River Basin Conservancy in OH and they will be reviewing the project.
 - GLC Application/GLSNRPP
 - Did not receive funding. Grant information will be used for a possible 319 Grant application.
- Agricultural Nutrient Resource Recovery Project (G. Lake) ○
Proposed next steps
 - Year 2 deployment of KDS / Quick Wash System
 - Planning is in progress
 - H2Ohio Technology Advancement Project (H2Ohio TAP)
 - Planning is in progress, waiting for updates from Federal partners

2. Other Reports

- IJC Manure Nutrient Management Collaborative

- Project update / future direction
 - Still waiting for approval of the plan and final documentation.

3. Partner Reports and Updates

- ISDA
- MRBC
- UMWA- Working on getting a meeting together.
- Save Maumee- Annual Fundraiser event 9/23/2023
- SJRWI- Working on the Cedar Creek Watershed Plan re-write. Sharon Partridge is sharing the WQIS data a meeting tonight, 7/26/2023 • MWA- Annual fundraiser 7/27/2023
 - MWA took Mary Martin and Wendy Davis and staff on the boat. It was a productive trip for both the District and MWA.
- NRCS-
- Purdue Extension
- FW Parks Dept.- Would like the District to get involves with AMP Lab. AMP Lab is interested in doing a project on water quality, possibly at Spy Run Creek during and after the construction project.
 - Public Works is applying for a grant to stabilize banks in Foster Park. Kyle Quandt is helping with the project and will be seeking a letter of support for the project.

4. New Business

- SWCD support for CISMA project in Allen County
 - No new updates. Still working through the process of setting up the CISMA.
 - SWCD is proposed to become the fiduciary for the CISMA. THE Board would like more information on the work plan of the local chapter. Chad will be sending missions and goals to the board. An MOA will be created between the District and the local CISMA chapter.
- 2023 Soil Health Field Day plans
 - Working on finalizing plans- Set for Sept. 6th at Roemke's.
 - ADM is sponsoring lunch.
- Civil Rights Review
 - Tim Bomba presented the Responsibilities for Partners checklist to board members. Civil Rights were reviewed by board and signed by chairman.
 - Next month NRCS will be reviewing rankings for EQUIP

5. Upcoming Events:

- Next Board Meeting – August board meeting will be postponed. It is proposed

that District hold a public meeting in September to review and have comment on our updated business plan. Chad Shaw will be looking into reserving Franke Park shelter.

- Meeting Adjourned 10:03 am