

Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting  
Wednesday, June 28, 2023 @ 8:00 am  
MEETING HELD IN PERSON and VIRTUALLY via ZOOM  
9602 Coldwater Road, Suite 108, Fort Wayne, IN 46825

**Supervisors; Present: Tom Miller, Tyler Steiglitz, Chad Shaw, Tom Crowe**

**Absent:**

**Associate supervisor: Don Rekeweg, Dick Crowl**

**SWCD Staff: Joelle Neff, Courtney Taylor, Mikila Cook, Gabe Curtis, Rhiannon Lake**

**ISDA:**

**NRCS:**

**SJRWI:**

**MWA:**

**Purdue Extension:**

**County Council:**

**Others:**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 8:03 AM by Chad Shaw

**Approval of Minutes**

April minutes reviewed. Tom Miller moved to approve minutes, Tyler Steiglitz seconded, all in favor

**Approval of Claims and Treasurer's Reports**

May:           Accounts Payable totaled: \$81,630.10  
                  Visa Charges: \$3,041.05  
                  Deposits Totaled: \$460.00  
                  Accounts Receivable: \$40,724.19  
                  First Source Bank: \$335,780.23  
                  Current Asset Balance: \$275,115.89  
                  CD: \$1,357.37

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

**1. Old Business**

- Review final draft of Preliminary SWCD Strategic Plan
  - Board will review
- Demonstration Farm Contribution Agreement with NRCS (C. Taylor)
  - Working with NRCS, documents due July 1st have been sent to NRCS.  
Currently only budgeted for \$100,000 with a potential additional \$200,000.

**2. Ongoing Projects/Grants**

- CRP Contribution Agreement with NRCS (G. Curtis)

- Moving forward on checks. CD work should be coming through. Reimbursement should be upwards of \$43,000.
- NACD Contribution Agreement -New application (C. Taylor)
  - Courtney attended a webinar and will be applying for the next round of funding.
- NRCS Contribution Agreement for Urban / Small Farms (Joelle N.)
  - Update on outreach efforts
    - Working with ARC at Bloomingdale Gardens. Boxes were painted by students at Bloomingdale Elementary.
      - Chad Shaw recommended partnering with Anthis Career Center
    - Doing consistent soil testing.
    - Started a working group in Allen County that will provide more services and services outside of the WLEB
    - Rhiannon and Jesus will be working on grower follow up.
- Soil Carbon Research Project with IUPUI (G. Curtis & C. Taylor)
  - Project extension update
    - Contract has been extended and amended. They were invoiced at \$7,500 with an additional \$2,000 available.
- Development of SWCD Mobile Education Trailer and Displays (Joelle N.)
  - Watershed display design with New Tech Academy update
    - Display is not finished. Joelle is in contact with staff and students.
  - Need for additional displays
    - Mock up have been sent to fabricators. Currently waiting for bids.
  - Display frame install
    - Displays were installed on a prototype basis. Finishing works and updates to design will be finished this week.
- USGS-GLRI Project (C. Taylor)- No new updates
  - Edge of Field project update
  - 2-stage Ditch project update
  - Potential Blue Creek WQ Auto-Sampler deployment
- Auglaize Watershed (C. Taylor.)
  - MRBC commitment to stream flow profile
    - MRBS agreed to use drone equipment to fly the river and assess issues.
    -
- Agricultural Nutrient Resource Recovery Project (G. Lake)
  - Proposed next steps
    - Year 2 deployment of KDS / Quick Wash System
      - Up and running, NRCS (Washington) is visiting on Sept. 6th to attend our field day and visit the project.

- H2Ohio Technology Advancement Project (H2Ohio TAP)

### 3. Other Reports

- IJC Manure Nutrient Management Collaborative- Tabled
  - Project update / future direction-Tabled

### Partner Reports and Updates

- ISDA
- MRBC
- UMWA- Held RiverFest in Defiance and recruited
- Save Maumee- Need a bridge pylon moved.
- SJRWI
- MWA
- NRCS
- Purdue Extension
- FW Parks Dept. Ground breaking for Franke is taking place today. New park opened off Harrison near Promenade

### 4. New Business

#### 5. Acquisition of Digital Imagery Drone (R. Lake)

- Rhiannon shared her presentation on digital imagery drone. Presentation is attached to minutes.
- Board would like to further discuss the need for a spray drone
- Tom Miller made a motion to approve the purchase of an imagery drone and associated costs, Tyler Steiglitz seconded, all in favor.
- Support of the Maumee Watershed Alliance
  - Revisit the strategy of supporting the MWA in the District's Strategic plan. Proposed to create a policy covering what the District supports in regards to supporting partnering organizations. A document will be created to refer to when seeking partnerships and supporting others events
  - Don suggests reaching out to Pheasants forever and other organizations to gain support.
  - Requested to support the MWA in the amount of an additional \$500.00
  - Tom Miller makes a motion to support the MWA in \$500 towards the above event, Tom Crowe seconded, all in favor.
- Civil Rights Review (Tim Bomba)- Tabled
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### 0. Upcoming Events:

- Next Board Meeting –July 26, 2023, location TBD- proposed to move up a week.

Meeting Adjourned: 9:26 a.m.