

Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting Wednesday, March

22 2022 @ 8:00 am

MEETING HELD IN PERSON

Allen County SWCD 9602 Coldwater Rd. Fort Wayne, IN 46825

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

Absent:

Associate supervisor: Dick Crawl

SWCD Staff: Greg Lake, Joelle Neff, Gabe Curtis, Mikila Cook

ISDA:

NRCS:

SJRWI: N/A

Purdue Extension: N/A

County Council: Don Wyss

Others: N/A

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:06 a.m. by Chad Shaw

Election of Officers

Chad Shaw was nominated for Chairman by Jain Young. Chad Accepted, board approved

Chad Saw nominated Tom Miller for Vice Chair, Tom Accepted, board approved

Tom Crowe was nominated for treasurer, Tom accepted, board approved

Jain Young was nominated for Secretary, Jain accepted, board approved

Chad Shaw made a motion to appoint Positions as discussed, all in favor

Appointment of Fiscal Officer

Tom Crowe nominated Greg Lake as Fiscal officer, all in favor

Selection of financial intuition

1st Source Bank is current financial institution, Tom Miller made a motion to stay with current financial institution, all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Jain Young moved to approve minutes, Tom Miller seconded, all in favor

Approval of Claims and Treasurer's Reports

March: Accounts Payable totaled: 41,388.11
 Visa Charges: 1,949.41
 Deposits Totaled: 46,638.49
 Accounts Receivable: 30,770.00
 First Source Bank: 310,442.50
 Current Asset Balance: 341,212.50
 CD: 1,357.37

Tom Crowe moved to approve claims and Treasurer's report for January, Tom Miller seconded, All in Favor

1. Old Business

- Recap Annual Meeting
 - Board agreed that Annual Meeting was successful.
 - Discussed plans for next year, no plans set in stone at this point. Board will revisit later in the year.
- Update on IASWCD CWI Funding
 - Tom Miller has reached out to Liz Brown but has not received a response. Tom will continue to reach out.
- Update on Watershed Improvement Commission legislation.

2. Ongoing Projects/Grants

- CRP Contribution Agreement with NRCS (Courtney T.)
 - CRP field checks are completed. There were an additional 100 plus checks that needed to be completed. The plan is to start on this year's checks as soon as we have the documentation. Joelle organized a meeting with NRCS project team leaders and was to become more efficient have been discussed.
- NACD Contribution Agreement TA #5 (M. Werling).
 - Update on replacement for Mike Werling
 - 3 strong candidates, one is a relative of Greg Lake so that may not be an option. The strongest candidate is Matt Burkholder but Matt currently resides in Lima Ohio. Matt is interested in working 3 8 hour days from the Fort Wayne office and the remainder of hours from home. It is also proposed the 99 Ford truck be left at Greg's for Matt to use. There is actually enough money in the grant to possibly hire an additional person for other tasks to be done as needed. The board agrees to pursue the candidates and set up interviews.
 - Don Wyss proposed the option of bridging two part time positions between two different departments. Greg will converse with Nancy in HR to see if this is possible. Greg asked for a board member to join him and Mike Fruchey to discuss the possibility of bridging a position between the District and the Surveyor's Office.
 - With the funds available in this grant that has not been used it is proposed that the District purchase a drone and acquire training for use.
- NRCS Contribution Agreement for Urban / Small Farms (Joelle N.)
 - Update on outreach efforts
 - Hosted a Coffee and.... The turnout was not great but the information was great.
 - Next month is the Coffee and... soil testing. This is the last deliverable on this grant. The grant renews in May.
- Soil Carbon Research Project with IUPUI (Gabe Curtis)
 - Project update
 - Contract runs through May. There is talk that the contract may be extended.
- Development of SWCD Mobile Education Trailer and Displays (Joelle N.)
 - Watershed display design with New Tech Academy
 - Met with New Tech Academy, they are working
 - Need for additional displays
 - The board suggests that we consult with 80/20 for engineering of the display mounts. The board insists that this project be completed asap. Jian used an engineer that she will giving us the contact info for. Tyler also may have a contact that could help with engineering.
- USGS-GLRI Project (Greg L.)- TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING
 - Edge of Field project update
 - Recap of March 4th meeting
 - Potential Blue Creek WQ auto-sampler deployment
 - Potential 2-stage ditch project
 - USGS is still waiting on an additional source of funding for the two-stage ditch.
- Auglaize Watershed (Greg L.) TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING
 - 205J Watershed Management Plan update
 - EPA final approval of WMP received
- Agricultural Nutrient Resource Recovery Project (Greg L.) TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING
 - Edge of Field project update

- Year 2 deployment of KDS/Quickwash System
- H2Ohio Technology Advancement Project (H2Ohio TAP)
- Fertilizer Production Expansion Project (FPEP)
 - No new updates

3. Other Reports

- IJC Manure Nutrient Management Collaborative TABLED UNTIL NEXT MEETING
 - Project update/ future direction

4. Partner Reports and Updates

- ISDA- Sandra will get new supervisor training with Tyler Stieglitz. State soils board funding is going to be tracked this year.
- MRBC-
- UMWA-
- Save Maumee-
- SJRWI-
- MWA-
- NRCS-
- Purdue Extension- John Woodmanse will be attending Going Green for Ag. Biggest thing with the pesticide update is that farmers applying restricted use pesticides must have a license. This includes mixing and spraying. This does not apply to general use pesticides. Dates this year at NE Purdue Ag Center are June 29th for staff, and Sept. 13th for public.
- [FW Parks Dept.-](#)
 - Upstream stabilization is underway and nearly done. Bids are coming in for Franke Park and that will get underway.

5. New Business

- Proposed county's update of Drainage Book
 - Mike Fruchey is taking on the task of updating the 'red book' which provides rating curves to developers on drainage. This is a potentially 3 million dollar project, within the project the water quantity and quality concerns will be addressed. Greg Lake Suggests that we invite The Surveyor to a board meeting to further discuss this project and where the District may fit in. Board agrees.
 - The Cornerstone project/fund in now under Mike Fruchey's
- Host Native Plant Sale
 - Continues through April 1st. have around 30 kits ordered at this point.
- Demonstration Farm Contribution Agreement with NRCS Upcoming Events:
- 2023 Water Quality Monitoring
- Insurance Coverage on tents and drones
 - Tents are covered by the District's policy as long as the is involved in the event.
 - Same is true for a drone owned by the District. The policy will only cover liability, not replacement or damage.

ADDITIONAL CONVERSATIONS

Joelle Neff introduced Alyssa ~~XXXX~~- Alyssa is piloting an endeavor to work with FWCS to implement native planting to reducing flooding. Alyssa presented her PowerPoint presentation on natives and endemic plants. The premise of the program is to reduce storm water runoff into rivers and drainage ditches by implementing native plantings.

It is proposed that FWCS schools be given the opportunity to participate in a city-wide native species planting initiative.

Alyssa is hoping that the District would help to pilot this program.

Chad Shaw exchanged information and will help Alyssa to get in contact with appropriate parties to advance the program.

The District will provide support on an educational basis.

Greg met with a group including Shannon Zezula and discussed funding through the inflation reduction act. Resources are plan to double next year and then triple the year after. With the additional of these funds more staffing will be hired at state level and resources will trickle down to the Districts. NRCS will be subcontracting work to Districts.

Jain Young asked for a support letter in support of grant she is writing. Jain will be sending info on the grant to the board for review. The District will draft a letter

Additional items:

Next months agenda to include updating of business plan.

Monies in account: Tom Miller proposed that 100,000 be put into a sperate fund. A committee was established to include Tom Miller, Chad Shaw, Tom Crowe.

Next Board Meeting – April 23, 2023

Meeting Adjourned 10:00