

Allen County Soil and Water Conservation District Board Meeting
Wednesday, Oct. 25th, 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 Steiglitz, Tom Crowe, Jain Young

Absent:

Associate supervisor: Don Rekeweg

SWCD Staff: Greg Lake, Courtney Taylor, Rhiannon Lake, Gabe Curtis, Mikila Cook

ISDA:

NRCS:

SJRWI:

MWA: Jackie Buck

Purdue Extension:

County Council:

Others:

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 8:02 AM by

Approval of Minutes

- September minutes reviewed. Tom Miller moved to approve minutes, seconded, all in favor

Approval of Claims and Treasurer's Reports

September: Accounts Payable totaled: \$33,385.83

Visa Charges: \$12,252.00

Deposits Totaled: \$109,036.54

Accounts Receivable: \$11,300.00

First Source Bank: \$277,452.16

Current Asset Balance: \$255,366.33

CD: \$1,357.37

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

1. Old Business

- Present final SWCD Strategic Plan
- SWCD support for CISMA project in Allen County
- 2024 Farm Show plans
 - Farm show planning is $\frac{3}{4}$ of the through planning. We will be asking for volunteers from the board to support us during the time.
- JA Job Spark -November 7-8, 2023 booth display
 - Joelle and Jackie have taken the lead on planning the job spark event. The event will focus on careers in conservation and agriculture.
- District interest in acquiring cover crop roller crimper

- Tabled until November

2. Ongoing Projects/Grants

- NACD Contribution Agreement -New application (C. Taylor)
 - Courtney applied for the next round of the grant. They received a large number of applications. NACD reached out to ask for an ok on receiving 75% of the budget. The District agreed to the 75%. We are waiting to hear for the update from NACD currently.
- Demonstration Farm Contribution Agreement with NRCS (C. Taylor)
 - Currently have a signed NOA, the on farm demo is technically up and running. Met with all partnering DCs, the Area Conservationist, and Shannon Zezula, also met with other SWCDs in the area to present ideas. The next meeting is set up for Jan. 18th at the Farm Show to review ideas as to how best implement plans for the grant. NOA and budget narrative have been sent to the partnering counties for review.
 - Grant requirements are education and outreach and is mirroring, on a smaller scale, a program in Wisconsin. The program will focus on recent adopters or new to conservation producers. The demo will consist of 5 demonstration sites. There will also be demo elites that will focus on singular events/plantings. Currently projected to receive \$100,000 initially.
 - Encouraging partnering districts to move forward with planning events and moving forward with the project.
 - Tom Crowe suggested to extend the project to forestry related practices and events. Tim Bomba believes that NRCS may be in support of forestry related events.
- NRCS Contribution Agreement for Urban / Small Farms (J. Neff)
 - Update on outreach efforts
- Auglaize Watershed (J. Neff)
 - MRBC commitment to stream flow profile
 - MRBC hired DA Brown to do water surface elevation checks. There is currently 6 feet of elevation increase in one mile of stream between Indiana and Ohio.
 - Evaluate local interest in pursuing streambank stabilization project
- Development of SWCD Mobile Education Trailer and Displays (J. Neff)
 - Watershed display design with New Tech Academy update
 - Will be using the trailer for JA Job Spark
- Soil Carbon Research Project with IUPUI (G. Curtis, J. Rosario)
 - Project extension update
- CRP Contribution Agreement with NRCS (G. Curtis)
- USGS-GLRI Project (G. Lake)
 - Edge of Field project update
 - West side of project is finished. Will only be sampling the east side of field going forward.
 - 2-stage Ditch project update
 - Blue Creek WQ Auto-Sampler deployment
- Agricultural Nutrient Resource Recovery Project (G. Lake)- Tabled
 - Proposed next steps

- H2Ohio Technology Advancement Project (H2Ohio TAP)
- 3. Other Reports
 - IJC Manure Nutrient Management Collaborative
 - Project update (no report)
- 4. Partner Reports and Updates
 - ISDA MRBC UMWA Save Maumee IASWCD
 - SJRWI MWA NRCS Purdue Extension [FW Parks Dept.](#)
- 5. New Business
 - Promotion of non-government funded conservation efforts (education/incentives)
 -
 - Annual Conference registration / participation / booth display
 - The District will be exhibiting at the IASWCD Annual conf.
 - Appointment of supervisor
 1. Tom Miller motioned to recommend the appointment of Tom Crowe to the Allen SWCD Board, Jain Young seconded, all in favor.
- 6. Upcoming Events
 - Next Board Meeting –November 22, 2023

Meeting Adjourned 9:00 a.m.