

April 2, 2004

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, April 1, 2004.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, Amil Kleinert, Peg Wright, Joe Madison, Tami Kruer, Bryan Wallace, Pat Larr, Mike Johnson, Margie Zoglmann, David Trotter, and Melanie Davis.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. Sam Hagest asked for additions or corrections to the March minutes. Amil Kleinert moved to approve minutes as written; Joe Madison seconded and motion carried.

The Financial report was reviewed. Joe Madison moved to approve the financial report; Dana Coots seconded. Motion passed with all approving.

OLD BUSINESS:

Bryan Wallace reported on the spring tree sale. Trees have been delivered and are being distributed to customers as they order. Trees are No. 1 Grade or Conservation Grade and are sold for \$20 and \$15 respectively. Fifty-eight trees have been sold thus far in the sale, covering our costs. Trees obtained from Forrest Keeling are cheaper and are good quality trees. Customer service from Forrest Keeling has been excellent. Bryan and Pat worked on a suggested list of tree species for a Fall '04 sale. Bryan asked for comments or suggestions on the list. He stated that Forrest Keeling suggested ordering early for a Fall sale so that a wider variety of species would be available. Amil Kleinert will review the Fall list before a decision is made about the sale. Amil will also provide tree supports to the SWCD to be sold during the Spring sale.

NEW BUSINESS

Preparations for the 4-H Fair were discussed. Melanie Davis stated that the usual issues exist: parts of the split rail fence are down, paint is peeling off the roofs of the grain bins, the fish tank needs to be sealed, and programs for each night need to be determined. The 4-H Fair will be held July 23-30 this year. Suggestions for repairs were made, but it was decided that the board meet early next month, walk the exhibit area, and assess what repairs need to be made. A suggestion was made to concentrate efforts on developing programs for nights that had been successful at last year's fair, such as the Forestry and Wildlife night; a program for each night may not be necessary. Also, Melanie was asked to contact Jamie Miller well in advance in order

to get fish for the tank. Bob Allen's sons and John Webb were also noted as sources of fish if needed. Amil Kleinert will speak with Eddie Miller about mowing the exhibit area this year.

Amil stated that Farm Bureau has asked the SWCD to participate in Ag Day, April 13, and handle the machinery section of the presentations. John Adam, Jr., had suggested a presentation explaining how machinery works in relation to soil erosion. David Trotter stated that Tom King was supposed to contact the SWCD with details; Tami Kruer said that she had not been contacted. David also said that bags are prepared in advance for the kids to take back with them; very few items are handed at each presentation. This year, teacher's bags will also be prepared. Rodney Couch and Tom King will be bringing in equipment for display. Tami distributed an outline for her presentation. Presentations are given every 9 minutes. Ag Day will begin at 9 a.m. in the morning, and 1200 children will participate.

Melanie Davis reported on the upcoming USDA conversion to CCE computers and migration to an Exchange/Outlook email system. The migration to the new email system will occur in April. At that time, USDA employee email addresses will change format; SWCD addresses will maintain their current format and functionality. However, USDA will be shutting down the UNIX servers now in use and completing a conversion to Microsoft XP in July 2004. When this occurs, SWCD employees will be able to receive email but will lose the ability to send email, unless they get another internet service provider. If the District desires to stay on the USDA network, CCE compliant computers would need to be purchased if District computers do not meet the CCE hardware configuration standards. If they *do* meet the standards, it may be possible to load the XP software on the machines and avoid the expense. Software loaded on the CCE computers has to be XP compliant (Microsoft products); software that is not has to go thru an approval process that can take from 6 months to 1 year. This could be a drawback since several applications that Melanie and Tami use routinely are not compliant products. It was suggested that if that was the case, the approval process should be initiated as soon as possible to avoid delays. Melanie will contact Steve Antras for more information on the conversion, and will update the board at their next meeting.

Margie Zoglmann, Grazing Specialist, stated that 4 pasture walks were required for her grant. She has decided to hold a walk in each county during the months of June-September. She would like to do three walks this year, and if there is time, do another 2-3 next year. Walks have been scheduled for Scott County on July 8, and for Jefferson County in September. Dates for Clark County were discussed and it was decided to hold the walk on June 15. Margie said that she will be conducting a workshop April 13 at the Marysville Community Center, 6:30 p.m. slow time. Susannah Hole will speak on renovation of pasturelands. Margie will also speak about the opportunities available thru her grant.

STAFF REPORTS

Mike Johnson, IDNR Resource Specialist, reported that he has spent considerable time conducting workshops and educating plan preparers, and all units of Clark County government about Rule 5 changes. Mike stated that many of the erosion and sediment control plans that the office has received, have been inadequate. He has also been doing preliminary work on CRP waterways.

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that she has been working on the 7 EQIP applications she received. Two non-grazing contracts were tentatively approved for a total cost share of \$37,000. One grazing contract initially ranked high but now may not get funding. Pat traveled to Harrison County a few days to assist in their EQIP contract ranking.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities for the past month. Tami has been working with David Trotter on an Earth Day event scheduled for this Saturday, April 3. The Evening News and The Courier-Journal are providing coverage for the event. Events will run from 9 a.m.- 2 p.m. Jason Emmons from Bear Hollow Wood will be on hand to demonstrate chainsaw carving. There is also a poster contest, Smokey the Bear will be on hand, and Home Depot will be bringing craft kits for children to build and take home. Bryan will have a display, as will the Clark County Solid Waste District, and the Sunnyside Master Gardeners. The SWCD will offer trees for sale. Jamie Winner from Clark State Forest will be conducting tree ID walks on the 50 Trees of Indiana path. The New Washington State Bank has contributed \$100 to sponsor the event.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, reported that Harry Nikides approved the District's request to use its excess Clean Water Indiana funds towards the no-till drill purchase. Melanie asked supervisors if they would like her to pay the balance due on the drill and pay the past due Rite-Way Printer invoices since the District received their budget appropriation this week; supervisors agreed to do so. Melanie recently received a direct deposit authorization form from the State that would allow the State to deposit funds directly into the District checking account and defray check-printing expenses. Supervisors agreed to authorize the direct deposit. Melanie informed the board that Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Annual Meeting will be April 19, 6:00 p.m., at the Jennings County Public Library. Melanie will call in reservations for those attending.

Bryan Wallace, Urban Project Coordinator, reported that he spoke with the Charlestown City Council regarding the storm drain marking program. He also spoke to the Charlestown Beautification Committee. The Committee was very excited about the program and may decide to work with Bryan on the project. Bryan has been storm drain marking in Floyd County. He will be manning his booth and the Solid Waste District's booth during the Earth Day event.

David Trotter had no report from Extension.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A thank you was received from the Jesse Montgomery family for the flower arrangement sent by the office staff and supervisors.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary