

April 7, 2006

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors met in Executive Session on Thursday, April 6, 2006, at 7:30 p.m. Change in title and responsibilities for the district Education Coordinator, Tami Kruer's position, was discussed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

The regular monthly board meeting convened immediately following. Those present were Sam Hagest, Peg Wright, Joe Madison, Dana Coots, Amil Kleinert, Mike Johnson, Pat Larr, Tami Kruer, Jared Sawin, and Melanie Davis.

Sam asked for additions or corrections to the March minutes. Hearing none, Peg Wright moved to approve minutes as written; Joe Madison seconded, and motion carried.

The Financial Report was reviewed. Amil Kleinert moved to approve the report; Dana Coots seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Melanie Davis reported that only two persons responded from the 72 invitations sent out, to attend the Conservation Needs Assessment Breakfast planned for Monday morning, April 10. It was decided to cancel the breakfast. Several surveys were received. Tami Kruer suggested submitting news releases to advertise the availability of the survey on the SWCD web site in hopes of getting more surveys returned.

Sam Hagest asked for any further discussion on the District Office Manager position. Amil Kleinert moved to change Tami's title to District Education Coordinator/Executive Director; Peg Wright seconded. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Melanie presented a Reimbursable Agreement from NRCS, covering the office space occupied by Jared Sawin for the fiscal year 2006, for signature. She also presented a letter from NRCS concerning their intention to bill all SWCDs for office space rent and associated overhead that employees occupy beginning January 1, 2007. The letter states that this will allow NRCS to invest more in technical and financial assistance, rather than overhead expenses. Alternatives to paying rent were discussed such as occupying other space, or entering into a contribution agreement with NRCS. In a contribution agreement, the District would agree to provide

technical services above and beyond their present duties. Joe Madison moved to sign the reimbursable agreement to pay for Jared's office space; Peg Wright seconded and motion carried.

Sam stated that he and Dana Coots had attended a meeting last evening concerning the consolidation of USDA Service Centers. Ideas were presented on consolidating two or three county FSA offices into one, and moving SWCD offices and employees with them. This would result in there being only one CED instead of three, and in more FSA personnel being available to service customers, and to fill in when employees were sick or on vacation. Supervisors discussed concerns such as servicing farmers from multiple counties at one location, willingness of employees to travel a greater distance to work, getting county funding to pay wages and expenses if the office is located in a different county, and higher rental rates in congested areas where consolidated offices may be moved to. Supervisors felt a letter should be sent to NRCS that would offer positive alternatives to consolidation. Ideas that would increase office efficiency and lower overhead costs for Clark County may be looked at more favorably than offering a negative viewpoint of the situation.

John Woehrle contacted Melanie last week concerning the Marvin D. Wright scholarship. Mr. Woehrle feels that the scholarship given needs to be at least \$1,000. He is willing to donate up to \$5,000 to the District if enough match can be found so that the endowment will yield sufficient funds. It was suggested that the Community Foundation be contacted to see if they would provide the match; an article in the SWCD newsletter could also solicit donations. Supervisors asked Melanie to contact Mr. Woehrle and let him know that we will work on getting a match for his generous donation.

STAFF REPORTS

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, stated that Roger Prather submitted an application for three tracts of land in the recent EQIP sign-up. She presented two conservation plans, for Tonya Broughton and Mike Johnson, for signature. She also has been working to get practices planned and ready for installation this summer.

Jared Sawin, Urban Conservation Specialist, reported that the Post-Construction Workshop on March 24th was a success with 68 attendees. A qualified professional training session is being planned by FMSM; Jared and Kevin are assisting. Earth Day at Falls of the Ohio State Park will be April 15th. Jared, Kevin, and Tami will be present to speak with the public on that day. Jared is also preparing a newsletter to be sent out soon.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities for the month. In addition she passed out copies of a letter to the editor that appeared recently in The Evening News. The letter was a negative view of farm subsidies.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, reported that she has been working on the tree sale. Trees arrived this week and many orders have already been picked up. She noted that sales of 3-gallon container trees were down for this sale, however, the small evergreens sold out.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

Tonya Broughton and Mike Johnson plans signed.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A card was signed to be sent to June Adam in concern for her recent health problems and death in the family.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary