

August 6, 2010

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, August 5, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, Bruce Adams, Tami Kruer, Matt Bell, and Melanie Davis.

Sam asked for additions or corrections to the July minutes. Hearing none, Bruce moved to approve minutes as written; Dana seconded, and motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Melanie reported the guidelines for 2011 CWI grants have been released, however, the budget that supports them has not. Therefore, it may be some time before applications are accepted and funds are distributed. Melanie spoke recently with Lynda Phillips at the Scott County SWCD. Scott County is interested in doing a cost-share program on cover crops, and would like to partner with Clark County in order to get the extra \$1,000 offered for partnerships. A spring workshop, developing a promotional brochure, and offering cost-incentives to producers, are initial ideas; demonstration plots, and incentives to use the GPS and no-till drill may be others. Supervisors agreed to work with Scott County on the grant. Melanie stated that advertising for a technician during the 4H fair to run the District's GPS and no-till drill program was unsuccessful. There is \$3600 allocated in the 2010 CWI grant for the technician's salary. Laura Fribley has advised that this money can be used for other things as long as the District stays within the purpose of the grant. After discussion, supervisors agreed to offer incentives to encourage producers to rent the District's GPS units. Melanie will send a letter to Laura requesting the change. The SSCB is also allowing districts to extend their 2010 CWI grants three months. Notice must be sent to the DSS if a district desires to do so. Supervisors asked Melanie to send Laura notification that they would like the grant extended.

Melanie, Tami, and Sam met with representatives from IDEM on Monday to review the draft contract for the District's 319 grant. Approval of the final contract by IDEM may take up to 4 months. Because of this, it was suggested that the District could ask for a 3 month extension of the grant. This would allow the District additional time to advertise for, interview, and hire persons to fill the positions in the grant. Supervisors decided to ask for the extension. Melanie will notify IDEM.

The County Council will meet this Monday, August 9th, and consider the SWCD's request for additional appropriation. Paperwork was submitted to request funds for operating expenses as well as salaries that were cut from the SWCD 2010 budget. Dana and Bruce will represent the SWCD at the meeting.

Activities and events of the 4H Fair were reviewed. Extreme heat seemed to affect attendance on some nights, but overall, it was successful.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget forms for 2011 are due to the Auditor's office by July 1. After discussion, supervisors agreed to submit a budget of salaries and operating expenses based on the budget originally submitted for 2010.

Melanie informed the board that the District's 319 grant proposal has been approved. The project manager is currently preparing a draft grant contract, and would like to meet with Melanie and Sam to review it when the draft is completed. Once that step is done, the contract goes into a lengthy approval process, which will probably push fund availability to the fall.

Tami reported that the George Rogers Clark Land Trust has accepted and recorded its' first conservation easement of 80 acres on the Troncin property. A Harrison County conservation group is putting forth the money for the Stewardship Fee. The Land Trust is also working with Clarence Hausz of Lanesville for a small easement on his property, and has been in discussion with Mary Ann Parsons for an easement on her property. The Land Trust is meeting with Farm Bureau next Friday about the possibility of holding an easement on Spreisterbach property.

Several contributions the Clark County Natural Resources Conservation Fund were made during the second quarter. A statement of the fund was reviewed.

IDEM will be conducting audits of the MS4 communities during the month of August. A schedule for each MS4 was presented. Reggie Korthais, and Ronnie Boehm will be working together to complete the audits. Matt will also be in attendance during each audit.

The District's Annual Meeting will be held on January 27, 2011. Melanie will advertise for catering bids as soon as possible. Amil is up for reappointment; Bruce for reelection.

The next Leadership Conference will be held September 10-11, 2010 in Wabash, IN. Supervisors decided to wait for a closer venue to attend the "Board Development" session that is being offered.

No other new business.

STAFF REPORTS

Jennifer Kipper, NRCS District Conservationist, was not present for a report due to scheduled leave.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator/Executive Director, presented a written report of her activities.

Matt Bell, Urban Specialist, presented a written report of his activities.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary