

December 7, 2007

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, December 6, 2007, at 5:30 p.m.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, Amil Kleinert, Peg Wright, Tami Kruer, Jared Sawin, Sylvia Hottel, Laura Fribley, and Melanie Davis. Not present was Joe Madison.

Sam asked for additions or corrections to the November minutes. Hearing none, Amil Kleinert moved to approve minutes as written; Dana Coots seconded, and motion carried.

The Financial Report was reviewed. Peg Wright moved to approve the report; Amil seconded. Motion passed.

Laura Fribley, ISDA District Support Specialist, distributed information on the 2008 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant program. There are two grants available:

- 1) a \$2,000 Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant, which gives each District an opportunity to receive \$2,000 to market the adoption of sediment and nutrient management practices in their county. Applications are due January 4, 2008.
- 2) a \$3,000-10,000 Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant, which is an open call to Districts for innovative projects that address sediment and nutrient reduction. Applications are due February 1, 2008.

Laura stated that the second grant would be the more competitive of the two as far as funds available. After discussing requirements of the grants and possible ideas, supervisors decided to submit two applications for the Marketing Initiative grant – one for a cover crop demonstration site at the home show, and one for a no-till/soil quality workshop. Staff will research ideas for the Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant and present them at the January board meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Tami Kruer reported that the Acting Secretary of Agriculture, Charles Conner, approved FSA's Restructuring Plan effective November 16, 2007. The 120 day waiting period will end on March 15, 2008. During that time, FSA will be preparing for their move, and sending out letters to producers asking where they would like their records kept. Quick passage of the 2008 Farm Bill will stop the move, however, that doesn't appear likely at this time. In lieu of this, supervisors and staff discussed items the District will need if FSA moves. The District has funds left in its

2007 County budget that need to be used before the end of the year. Supervisors recommended purchasing a good quality scanner. They also thought, instead of trying to spend all the money, a letter should be sent to the County Council stating that the District had tried to be very frugal in its purchasing throughout the year, and as a result ended the year with excess funds, which will be absorbed by the County; the District feels it is better to do this than to abuse the Council's generosity.

Melanie Davis asked which supervisors would be attending Annual Conference; hotel reservations need to be made by December 14th. Supervisors suggested asking Bruce Adams to attend as staff. Peg, Dana, and Sam will be attending; Melanie will check with Bruce Adams and Joe Madison to confirm their attendance.

Melanie stated that Sylvia Hottel had agreed to speak at Annual Meeting; topic will be related to the watershed and water quality. Staff suggested presenting Conservation Kudos this year instead of Conservationists of the Year, because there are several persons that have contributed to conserving resources on their land. It would be difficult to single out one that had done more than another. Supervisors agreed. Kudos will be presented for Forestry & Wildlife, Agriculture, and Public Service. Recognition will also be given to the 4H Entomology team for their efforts at the regional and state level.

Melanie spoke with Bruce Adams concerning his work on the District's CWI Conservation Buffer Initiative grant. Bruce said that few of the landowners he has spoken with have been interested in installing buffers. Bruce would prefer to turn the position over to someone else if he is elected to the board in January. Supervisors suggested Joe Madison as a replacement since he will be leaving the board. Supervisors will contact Joe to see if he is interested. Melanie said that changes may be made to the original grant proposal if the District wanted to pursue a different approach to marketing the buffer programs, however changes must be approved by the State Soil Conservation Board.

Tami stated that she spoke with Mike Waiz of the Community Foundation regarding our scholarship fund. He informed her that the majority of our scholarship committee needed to consist of persons other than supervisors and staff. Currently, committee members are Peg, Tami, and Sylvia (who is considered an independent). To keep current members, two other members must be added. Tami suggested Pat Larr and Bob Allen. Pat agreed to serve on the committee; Tami will contact Bob Allen. Tami questioned Mark regarding moving our fund. He stated that the Community Foundation would have to approve the move, and if they did so, the fund would have to go to another foundation.

NEW BUSINESS

Melanie asked if supervisors had received the information she sent to them in the mail regarding the NRCS Contribution Agreements. Melanie contacted Teresah Caire, Area Resource Conservationist, to let her know that the District was interested in an agreement. Melanie also told her that she would be willing to assist with the NRCS workload in both Clark and Scott counties. NRCS is supposed to forward paperwork for the agreement, but that has not been received as yet.

STAFF REPORTS

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, has been working to get EQIP sign-ups. Five contracts have been approved in Clark County and others are pending; conservation plans should be ready for signature at the January board meeting.

Jared Sawin, Urban Conservation Specialist, presented a written report of his activities.

Sylvia Hottel, Silver Creek Watershed Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities.

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

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

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Possible Region Meeting for December 18th. Details will follow if it materializes.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary