

February 10, 2006

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, February 9, 2006.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Joe Madison, Peg Wright, Dana Coots, Amil Kleinert, Steve Hall, Jared Sawin, Tami Kruer, and Melanie Davis.

Sam Hagest called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Sam asked for additions or corrections to the January minutes. Hearing none, Peg Wright moved to approve minutes as written; Dana Coots seconded, and motion carried.

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

#### NEW BUSINESS

Sam Hagest opened the floor for officer nominations. Amil Kleinert moved to keep the current slate of officers. Peg Wright seconded and motion passed.

Melanie Davis distributed copies of a Projected Income & Expenses 2006 report for the District's budget relative to the District's checking account, and a copy of the 2006 budget the District has with the county. To create the Projected Income & Expenses report, Melanie used monthly averages taken from actual expenditures in 2005 to show what income and expenses could be for each month in 2006. An ending balance for 2006 was then calculated assuming those figures remained the same. Melanie noted that the county froze budgets for 2006 at 2005 levels, therefore that report shows identical numbers for each line item. Steve Hall mentioned that several SWCDs across the state solicit business or corporate sponsors to help offset their expenses in addition to the county funding they receive. He felt this could be an option for our SWCD. Melanie stated that the District account balance was such that supervisors could consider reinstating their per diem; supervisors were in favor of that. It was questioned whether supervisors can be paid both for per diem and mileage if they are traveling within the county. Melanie will check District law and report at the next board meeting. Melanie asked for two supervisors to review the financial report, which she must turn in to the State office by March 31.

Melanie distributed copies of the Clean Water Indiana Grants Program. She stated that she applied for reimbursement for Annual Conference expenses through the Supervisors Training Incentive, but had not received payment yet. The CWI Program accepts grant applications for Unique Partnership Programs, Program Marketing Incentives, Regional Technician Programs, and Centralized

Clearinghouse Coordinator Programs. Application deadline is March 1, 2006. A suggestion was given for using Program Marketing Incentives to install riparian forested buffers, filter strips, and quail buffers (CRP practices). Discussion led to a proposal to hire an employee to compile a list of landowners, to develop a newsletter explaining the program, and to contact interested landowners. Questions arose concerning how payment is made to Districts, whether upfront or in arrears. Also, with a total of \$380,000 in CWI funds available to Districts, what percentage should a District expect to receive/ask for. Immediate thoughts were to ask for \$20,000. Pat will check her records to determine average feet of installed buffers over the last 3-4 years in order to determine a goal for the proposal, and thereby a unit cost. Steve Hall and Peg Wright agreed to assist her in putting a proposal together. Melanie will check with Jared Chew, ISDA Assistant Director, on how payment is made and to ask if he has any tips on preparing a good application.

Participation in the "District Visits" program was considered. Supervisors felt the program would be beneficial. Melanie will contact Ray Chattin or Jim Lake to request a visit.

Long-range planning and a business plan for the District were discussed. It was decided that a long-range plan needed to be developed first, and then a business plan formed that would reflect its financial needs. Terry Stephenson, Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D, has offered to assist the District in planning, as well as has Steve Hall. Thoughts were to follow a locally led format to create the plan. Staff will outline the planning process and present it at the next board meeting; dates for locally led meetings will be set at that time.

Pat congratulated Steve Hall on his recent appointment to the Clark County Drainage Board. Jared Sawin has been attending Drainage Board meetings as Pat has had conflicts with the meeting dates. Pat asked that Jared be considered as the District's representative for the board.

## STAFF REPORTS

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that she had been working on EQIP contracts in both Clark and Scott counties. She has been coordinating the design work for some of the Tech Team projects so that work can begin this summer. She also attended Scott County's Annual Meeting.

Jared Sawin, Urban Conservation Specialist, reported that he has been working closely with FMSM and the communities on year three program goal attainments. All the communities have passed their post-construction ordinances. Plans are in the works for a post-construction workshop, which will lead into a qualified professional training program targeted at site foremen and developers. Participating in the training program will give them the opportunity to be certified in erosion and sediment control. It will be a practical, informative class. There will be a Storm Water Advisory Committee (SWAC) meeting around March 1 to discuss the post-construction workshop; location to be announced. Jared has also begun preparing newsletters to help the communities' meet year three requirements.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities for the month.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, reported that she had spent much of her time putting tree sale information together. She has already received several orders.

#### CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

#### CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Colton Dietrich sent a thank you card for recognizing the 4-H Judging teams at the Annual Meeting.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Employee reviews were given.

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

Melanie Davis  
Secretary