

January 16, 2004

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, January 15, 2004.

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. Sam Hagest asked for additions or corrections to the December minutes. Melanie Davis noted that a motion had been passed to sell the new plat books for \$20 each. Upon review of the contract, it was found to state that the books would be sold for \$15. A standard price would prevent competition with the Floyd County SWCD. A motion was made by Peg Wright and seconded by Dana Coots to honor the plat book contract and reduce the price of the books to \$15. Motion carried. Peg also moved to approve the minutes with the foregoing change. Dana Coots seconded and Motion passed with all approving.

The Financial report was reviewed. It was noted that \$7,433.22 was recently received from IDEM. The payment was large due to the inclusion of \$3,000 for printing the 2004 Disposal Guide in partnership with the Solid Waste Management District. Dana Coots moved to approve the financial report; Peg Wright seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Melanie Davis reported on the status of the SWCD's request for additional appropriations. The SWCD is on the agenda for the Council's February 9th meeting; paperwork for that meeting has to be filed by January 16 (the next day after the board meeting). In preparing the paperwork, Melanie made several calls to the Nancy Shepherd at the Auditor's office and Pam Smith in the Commissioner's office. She was told by Nancy that one of the forms had to be approved and signed by the Commissioners since the funds were coming out of their budget. Melanie had assumed that Sam Hagest as District Chairperson would sign the form as it stated "department head." Pam confirmed this and also told Melanie that she could not stamp a signature on the form without the Commissioners' prior approval. She advised Melanie that the SWCD Board needs to request that the Commissioners ask the Council to appropriate funds to the SWCD. Upon the Commissioners approval of the request, the paperwork is then filed by the Commissioners and presented at the next Council meeting. The Commissioners meet on January 15 (this night) and January 29 (the night of the SWCD Annual Meeting) at 5:30 p.m. Questions arose as to whether the form could be faxed to the Commissioners for their signature since the Board had already been before them once, or whether the Commissioners would hear discussion from the floor if a supervisor(s) attended this night's meeting. Melanie was asked to call Pam again to see what could be done. Melanie returned to say that the form could not be faxed and a supervisor(s) would need to attend the meeting to make their request and present the form. Pam said that the topic might be placed last on the agenda since it was not scheduled, and the request may not be approved. Discussion was held and it was decided to wait until the January 29th Commissioners meeting to present the request. Melanie will get the SWCD put on the agenda for that night and one supervisor will attend the meeting, while the rest conduct the activities at the SWCD Annual Meeting. If Commissioners approve the request, supervisors will try to

contact Council members to see if they will address the issue at their February 9th meeting since the filing deadline will be past.

A discussion was held on a proposed District Work Plan for 2004-2005. The staff had met and reviewed the previous Work Plan for 2001-2003, along with the Long-range Plan for 1998-2005, in preparing the new plan. The format of the plan includes action steps, dates they are to be completed by, the current status, what the budget is, and the amount of dollars actually spent. Staff felt this format would require them to refer to the plan frequently to determine if they were meeting goals, and if they were staying within budget. A lengthy discussion of the plan followed, which resulted in some minor changes and possible new action steps.

Melanie Davis asked the Board if they had suggestions for a program for the Annual Meeting. The District's IASWCD slide show was suggested. The presentation could be done with a regular slide projector, but would be best with narration. Peg Wright suggested ending the slide show with a review of how much money the District generates in the county each year. Melanie asked if the Board would like to present certificates of recognition to the 4-H judging teams, to those that have installed conservation buffers, and to the 2003 River Friendly Farmer, Mark Burgin. The Board agreed to do so. Amil Kleinert suggested that the 4-H team members give a short speech on what the contest is about and what is required of them during the competition, instead of just presenting the members with a certificate. Melanie will contact Joyce Dickson, team coach, to see if a representative from each team can give a 5-minute speech. Since the District is not able to give free tickets for all team members to attend, each team will be sent 2 tickets and will have to determine who will use them. Koetter Woodworking was suggested as a sponsor to pay for the teams' meals. Tami will email Randy Koetter and ask if they would be willing to sponsor. Melanie will contact Farm Bureau and New Washington State Bank. Dana Coots suggested trying to obtain the slide show that was used at the Annual Conference Legislative Breakfast; Pat Larr said that it was probably a Power Point presentation that would be easy to obtain. Staff will obtain the Annual Conference slide show and compare it with the show the District has and determine which one to use. It was decided that Sharon Marra should be contacted so that she could present the District with its Governor's Award.

NEW BUSINESS

None.

STAFF REPORTS

Mike Johnson, IDNR Resource Specialist, reported the District will be responsible for plan reviews for about the first year under the new Rule 13; the MS4's should be set up by that time and the responsibility will go to them. He also noted that DNR is reorganizing, but he has no details yet.

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that the end of the first ranking for funding EQIP is March 15th. The web site is now up for statewide EQIP ranking. Under this program,

the 2 highest-ranking non-livestock contracts in the county will get funding. Pat has only one application at present that is non-livestock.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities for the past month. Tami informed the Board that the Wright family had decided to contribute money so that the Marvin Wright scholarship could be awarded this year. Tami and Melanie have sent information to local schools and colleges seeking applicants. The amount of the award will be \$500. Mrs. Wright will write a check directly to the University that the student is attending.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, presented two invoices she received - one for the District's portion of the 2004 Disposal Guide (produced by the SWMD), and one for a Nursery Dealer's License for 2004. Supervisors agreed to pay both. Melanie announced that Supervisor Splash will be August 6-7, 2004, and the annual Conservation Tillage Workshop will be held on February 3, 2004, at the Pines Evergreen Room, Seymour, Indiana. No location was given for Supervisor Splash. The Tillage Workshop is sponsored by Purdue and requires a reservation.

Bryan Wallace, Urban Project Coordinator, asked if he could distribute the final survey of the 319 Grant at the Annual Meeting. Supervisors approved. Bryan is working on the final report for the grant.

Margie Zoglmann, Grazing Lands Specialist, presented the project partners article that is required each quarter by the grant. The article tells what she has accomplished to date and provides a balance sheet of funds used to date. Margie will be attending the Grazing Conference next week.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

A conservation plan for Francis Sink was signed for conversion to crops from grass on highly erodible land.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

A sympathy card was sent to Mrs. Lorenz, Kevin Lorenz's mother, on behalf of the District.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary