

June 25, 2004

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, June 24, 2004.

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

The meeting was called to order at 11:10 a.m. Sam Hagest asked for additions or corrections to the May minutes. Hearing none, Peg Wright moved to approve minutes as written; Dana Coots seconded and motion carried.

The Financial report was reviewed. Peg Wright moved to approve the financial report; Dana Coots seconded. Motion passed.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

The staff gave an update on repairs needed in the Natural Resources area for the 4-H Fair. The tornado of a few weeks ago tore down most of the fence on the backside of the area. It also uprooted one of the trees along the path and it is now leaning over on another tree. Tami Kruer and Bryan Wallace have painted the inside of the fish tank with DRYLOK. While painting, they noticed one of the light fixtures above the tank is hanging by the electrical wires; Tami will call David Cain to repair it. Tami has been searching for a replacement gasket for the fish tank filter; the one that came with the filter is stretched out and won't work. She hasn't been able to find a new one, but one company did offer suggestions on repairing the old one. Tami has also purchased some hydraulic cement to patch cracks on the outside of the tank wall, and will purchase stain to re-stain the picnic table. Pat Larr will check with her neighbor to see if he can remove the fallen tree. Dana Coots will spray the path a few weeks before the Fair. It was decided to make repairs and do clean up for the Fair on July 15 starting at 8:00 a.m. There will also be a brief board meeting that day.

Melanie Davis stated that the CCE compliant computer that the District purchased arrived and has been set up. She presented a Memorandum of Agreement between USDA/NRCS and the District to be signed. The memorandum states that USDA/NRCS will support the computer in return for District assistance in projects and tasks.

Melanie stated that she had advertised for River Friendly Farmer nominations and had sent out applications to several farmers in the area, but received no responses. She read the list of

applicants remaining from 2001, and asked supervisors if they would like to select from those applicants or forego the award this year. Supervisors decided to forego the award.

## NEW BUSINESS

Melanie attended a budget workshop a few weeks ago and obtained the budget forms for the 2005 fiscal year. Forms are due in the Auditor's office by July 1, 2004. During the workshop, Barbara Haas reviewed the salary matrix that was created last year. Notes of interest were:

- Barbara stated that increases in longevity over the current \$100.00/per year could be requested.
- Pam Smith asked why the SWCD's operating expenses were paid out of the Commissioner's budget and not the Council's. Barbara said she knew of no reason other than that was the way it had always been done. She suggested getting an attorney to research District law and determine if the District could be paid from the Council's budget. No comments to pursue this were made.

Currently, Melanie and Tami's salaries are paid by the Council. Melanie asked if she should request a 10% raise for both employees again this year as she has done in the past. Supervisors agreed for her to do so.

Melanie announced dates and location for this year's Supervisor Splash as August 6-7, at the Radisson Hotel, Merrillville, Indiana. Early registration is due by July 6 to avoid higher fees. Full conference registration, including meals, is \$150.00; lodging is \$79.00 per night. One-day registration is \$90.00, excluding meals. This year there are fees for selected sessions that run as high as \$30.00. After discussion, it was determined that attending Splash would be cost prohibitive in light of the District's budget situation. The Board decided that the District would pay registration only for those wanting to attend Splash. No one present was going to attend; Melanie will contact Joe Madison to see if he would like to attend. Amil Kleinert suggested contacting the State association to see if they video the sessions during Splash, if so, ask if the District could view them.

## STAFF REPORTS

Mike Johnson, IDNR Resource Specialist, distributed photos of Whispering Oaks subdivision. Mike stated that he had been receiving many complaints over that last few weeks, in part due to the heavy rains we received. He has completed several site reviews as a result. Whispering Oaks has gone to enforcement. They have not responded to site reviews and have not attempted to clean up the site. Greg Furnish, is the developer. Sterling Oaks is also a problem and will be in enforcement soon. Mike and Lynn Miller recently met with the EPA and the Corp of Engineers at Wes Porter's site. A Rule 5 plan has now been submitted to the SWCD office. Options for Mr. Porter will probably be to mitigate the wetland or abandon the project altogether. Mr. Porter was told by the Corps of Engineers not to start the project without their approval, but he began anyway. One home has been built on the site, which does not have access to sewers or utilities. Mike has also been working with Missy Shaber in Harrison County on waterways, and working on residue transects, which should be completed by this Friday.

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, introduced Nick Fellows, student trainee for this summer. Clark County recently received approval on 3 EQIP contracts, for \$58,000. met with the Muddy Fork Conservancy District board and Town of Borden manager about the Emergency Watershed Protection Plan NRCS has \$7,500 in their account to help clean debris from Structure #1 in Borden. Pat put in a request this morning for another \$100,000 to clean all debris out of the town. She noted that the situation is classified as “urgent and compelling.” Pat, Bryan Wallace, and Peg Wright met with Jorge Lanz this morning and presented a proposal detailing with assistance the District could offer in Phase II implementation. Mr. Lanz was agreeable to the proposal. He would like the District to determine the number of hours needed to accomplish the suggested tasks and a dollar figure for those hours, and present that to him. Mr. Lanz would then present the proposal to each entity, and encourage them to join into an interlocal agreement whereby each entity would pay the District for services. The District would in turn pay the persons hired to implement the tasks. Mr. Lanz would like to have a draft by the end of July of what the District can do, the people required, and the number of hours. He would like to review this information, present it to the entities for approval, and begin implementation in November of this year. It was projected that 2 people may need to be hired for the project. Amil Kleinert moved to accept the draft proposal and proceed with the cost estimate; Peg Wright seconded, and all approved.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities for the past month. She informed supervisors that there would be a pitch-in lunch on Monday, June 28<sup>th</sup> at Noon for Bryan Wallace. Bryan’s last day with the District will be Wednesday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, reported that she had spent most of the last month making contacts and scheduling exhibitors for the 4-H Fair.

Bryan Wallace, Urban Project Coordinator, distributed a copy of his final report that will be due at the close of the grant project, and reviewed it with the Board. Bryan has created a tri-fold brochure with the money remaining in the grant. He mentioned that there are a few monies left to be received, and a couple of invoices left to be paid upon his departure.

#### CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

Pat presented a plan for a small filter strip on Paul Coffman’s property.

#### CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sam Hagest thanked Pat Larr for her assistance in the aftermath of the tornado.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

Melanie Davis  
Secretary

