

June 27, 2006

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Monday, June 26, 2006.

Those present were Joe Madison, Dana Coots, Amil Kleinert, Laura Fribley, Pat Larr, Jared Sawin, Tami Kruer, and Melanie Davis.

Dana Coots called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Dana asked for additions or corrections to the May minutes. Hearing none, Amil Kleinert moved to approve minutes as written; Joe Madison seconded, and motion carried.

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

Laura Fribley, new District Support Specialist, was introduced. Laura will be informing the District of training opportunities and grant money available; she will be attending most of the District's monthly meetings.

OLD BUSINESS

Conservation Needs Assessment and long range planning were discussed. Laura stated that a business plan is a tool that can help District identify needs and serves to involve the public and local officials in District activities. It also helps the Board focus on their most important concerns and can be helpful in developing ideas for grants. A business plan includes dates for things to happen and those items can then be included on the monthly agenda. A business plan is more specific than a long range plan because it has definite goals and dates and is written for about 5 years out. Laura said that it typically takes a minimum of two - three hour meetings to produce a plan. She noted that Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grants this go-around should show how the proposal ties into the business plan; showing a connection to IASWCD's plan will be looked at favorably as well. After reviewing the District's previous long-range plan, Laura suggested building upon it to produce a new business plan; we could assign dates to many of the action items included. In order to apply for a CWI grant without a business plan completed, Laura suggested identifying 3-5 action steps related to the issues we want to work toward and state them in our application. Laura is available to facilitate the planning process.

Applications for the River Friendly Farmer award are due June 30th. Melanie stated that Pat and Mike reviewed the list of RFF applicants on file and highlighted those that would qualify: Davide Lewis, Fellows Brothers, Tom Schafer, and Rick Graf. After discussion, Davide Lewis was selected to receive the award.

Melanie Davis presented a letter from Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist, regarding the current rental situation. Supervisors reviewed the letter.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget forms are due to the Auditor's office by July 3rd. Tami Kruer distributed copies of the District's 2005 budget, which showed what was budgeted, what was used, and what the balance of each fund was at the end of 2005; a copy of the 2006 budget showed funds used to date. It was determined after discussion that information on expenditures from the District's checking account would be needed to accurately allocate funds for the 2007 budget. Melanie will pull those figures; she and Tami will review them and complete the budget forms.

Melanie distributed copies of a survey created by IDEM to determine the current and continued involvement of SWCDs in the implementation of Rule 5. Supervisors discussed and completed the survey. Survey is due to IDEM June 30th.

Supervisors reviewed an example of the IASWCD Spreadsheet for Marketing Benefits. This spreadsheet was used previously by the District when County funds were cut, and also as part of an Annual Meeting presentation. Laura Fribley suggested meeting one-on-one with officials and explaining what the figures represent before attending a commissioners or council meeting. It was decided to complete the spreadsheet and use it again during this year's budget sessions.

STAFF REPORTS

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, submitted a conservation plan for filter strips on Richard Graf's property for signature. She has been working on several filter strips, buffers and waterways. She recently looked at the site for the new Muddy Fork structure. A cultural resources inventory is going to be done, as well as a Category 2 survey to determine archeological sites. Pat announced that the office has a new Earth Team volunteer, Chrissy Ferguson, who is a high school senior interested in environmental work.

Jared Sawin, Urban Conservation Specialist, reported that he has been meeting with Brian Dixon on Fridays to discuss the County's Phase II issues. Brian is the engineer appointed by the County to handle Phase II concerns. Jared attended the landfill inspection training today and noted that it was very interesting and informative. He plans to save inspection forms on CD for future use.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator/Executive Director, submitted a written report of her activities. She stated that she received four applications for the Marvin Wright Scholarship. Tami is waiting to receive Bo Spainhour's final GPA. Melanie reported that funds in the Community Foundation would have to be doubled to \$20,000, in order to yield enough profit to increase the scholarship amount to \$1,000. Donations will be sought through newsletters and other publications. The board decided to postpone selecting a scholarship recipient until the next board meeting.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, stated that Pete Kerrigan has given her a quote of \$800 to clean, prime, and paint the grain bin roofs. GE has offered to do the work for the cost of the paint. Pete would be able to finish the job before the 4-H Fair; GE would not start working on the bins until September. Supervisors elected to have Pete do the painting using a light green color. Melanie announced a new requirement for districts connected to the USDA network. USDA is requiring that district employees be given background checks through the federal Office of Personnel Management. The cost is \$97 plus \$20 for finger printing per employee. This must be completed by September 15, 2006.

Laura Fribley spoke about the Clean Water Indiana grant process. There is about \$380,000 to be awarded in the next go-around. Several trends noted in funded proposals of the first go-around were: they were agricultural in nature, evidenced leveraging of additional funds (especially federal funds), and they

involved a number of different partners or multi-county partnerships. Grant categories are: Unique Partnership Program, Program Marketing Incentive, Clearinghouse Coordinator Program, Regional Technician Program, and District Training Incentive. Laura offered tips and suggestions for preparing proposals for each category. Tying the proposals to the District business plan would be a plus. The application deadline is September 1.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

Richard Graf for filter strips.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

Date for the next board meeting was set for July 11, 2006, time to be announced.

With no further business, Dana Coots adjourned the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary