

March 8, 2010

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, March 4, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Bruce Adams, Peg Wright, Amil Kleinert, Dana Coots, Brian Kendall, Jennifer Kipper, Tami Kruer, Matt Bell, and Melanie Davis.

Sam asked for additions or corrections to the February minutes. Hearing none, Bruce moved to approve minutes as written; Dana seconded, and motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Sam welcomed Brian Kendall, Crop Production Services, to the meeting. Brian explained the different types of Outback GPS Guidance Systems that he has available for purchase. The District planned to purchase two guidance systems with CWI funds. The systems will be rented to producers in order to promote the GPS technology, which reduces the over-application of fertilizer and pesticides, and thereby reduces excess nutrient/pesticide runoff. Brian recommended the S Lite (\$900) or S2 (\$1050) systems for ease of use. The S2 system has a better receiver and faster computer with a 3-4 inch accuracy; the S Lite has a 6-8 inch accuracy. Co-ax cables are specific to the units and cannot be purchased at the local hardware store, however, Brian keeps cables in stock. Supervisors discussed the units. Bruce moved to purchase two of the S2 units with extra power and coax cables. If those units are not available, then purchase two S Lite units. Peg seconded and motion carried.

Clean Water Indiana Grants were discussed. The 2010 grant has funds to purchase the GPS guidance systems, provides for staff to administer the rental program, and also has funds available for Leadership Development. Joe Madison and Dave Fellows were possibilities mentioned to administer the rentals. Tami will research what other districts charge as rental rates for the GPS units.

The 2009 SNRG CWI grant was discussed. Three producers submitted applications to participate in the soil testing program: Herman Cissell, Mike Johnson, and Ira Shaw. Applications were reviewed. Peg moved to approve the three applicants; Amil seconded, and motion carried.

The Annual Financial Report was reviewed and approved.

Melanie stated that there has been no word on whether the District's 319 grant application has been approved.

NRCS has notified districts that new Cooperative Agreements for space reimbursement have been drafted, and will be forwarded soon for review and signature. The first bill will cover the period from January 1 – March 31, 2010.

Melanie stated that the bulk bags of wildlife seed from the State will not arrive until April. She asked if supervisors would like to purchase 5 pound bags of wildlife seed to sell before the bulk seed arrives, or wait until the bulk seed comes in. Supervisors advised to order the bags of seed next week.

Contributions the District's endowment fund in honor of those who pass away was discussed. It was agreed that each supervisor would donate \$10 in honor of each person passing.

NEW BUSINESS

There will be a supervisor and staff training on March 18th in North Vernon at the Jennings County First Baptist Church, 5:30 p.m. Dinner is provided at a cost of \$10. RSVP by March 15th. Mike Johnson is attending if anyone would like to carpool. Dana, Sam, and Bruce will attend.

The George Rogers Clark Land Trust is on the verge of taking its first easement in Harrison County. They are working with the Harrison County Farm Preservation Group to do this. There is also another landowner in Harrison County that has inquired about putting their land in an easement.

The no-till drill is presently at Dana's house. The damaged tire will not hold air. Sam and Dana will work on replacing the tire. It was decided that the District's policy of cleaning out the seed boxes be enforced this year to alleviate having complaints about the boxes having seed left in them. Renters who do not comply will be charged a fee.

Staff filed paperwork on March 1st to request an additional appropriation for salaries lost through the recent budget cuts. Staff was informed last week that many county offices were filing for additional appropriations after hearing that the courts were granted a request they submitted to the council. The council will meet on Friday, March 19th, at 5 p.m., and will hear all requests then. It is required that a representative from the office making the additional appropriation request be present at the time the request is heard.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D Annual Meeting will be held March 25, 2010, at the South Ripley Elementary School, Versailles, IN, at 6 p.m. Cost for the meal is \$10 per person. RSVP by March 19th.

STAFF REPORTS

Jennifer Kipper, Acting NRCS District Conservationist, reported that she has been working on existing EQIP and CRP contracts. Jennifer is considering changing her schedule so that she works in a county two days in a row, and then rotates between the counties probably on Mondays or Fridays.

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

Matt Bell, Urban Specialist, presented a written report of his activities.

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

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you notes from Louis John Murray and Joshua McDonald, entomology team members, for recognizing them at the Annual Meeting.

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

Melanie Davis
Secretary