

## **March 4, 2004**

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, March 4, 2004.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, Amil Kleinert, Peg Wright, Joe Madison, Tami Kruer, Bryan Wallace, Pat Larr, and Mike Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Sam Hagest asked for additions or corrections to the January 15 minutes. Peg Wright moved to approve the minutes. Joe Madison seconded and the Motion passed with all approving. Minutes of the SWCD Annual meeting should be available for approval at the next board meeting.

The board discussed the annual meeting. Amil and Peg were commended on their presentation given during the meeting. A list of donors of the door prizes was compiled so thank you notes could be sent. It was noted that the District Supporters should also be sent thank you notes.

The Financial report was reviewed. Joe Madison moved to approve the financial report; Peg Wright seconded. Motion carried.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Tami Kruer reported on the status of the SWCD's request for additional appropriations. The SWCD is on the agenda for the Council's March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting; paperwork has been filed and everything seems to be in order. Information packets were sent to County Council members as well as the County Commissioners regarding the SWCD needs. Supervisors were given a copy of the packets that the staff mailed out. Dana discussed the importance of supervisors being present at the Council meeting. Dana Coots, Tami Kruer and Pat Larr will be attending the Council meeting. Sam Hagest and Amil Kleinert will also try to attend.

Joe Madison inquired about any additional Clean Water Indiana funds that might be available for SWCDs. The staff was not aware of any new developments regarding additional funds, but had heard that there was a possibility that there would be such funds available. The board also asked whether we had received approval to use the unused portion of our funds (\$1300) toward the no till drill. It was suggested that Melanie follow up on this ASAP.

Tami Kruer presented the 2003 Annual Financial Report that needs to be sent to the IDNR State Office. Tami indicated in the past this was a "mini audit" that has historically been done by two of the supervisors. The report must be filed by March 31, 2004. Dana Coots signed the form at

the request of Melanie Davis. After discussion by the board, Tami Kruer agreed to review the cancelled checks, the general ledger and the financial reconciliation form. Peg Wright, Dana Coots, and Sam Hagest will then review Tami's findings and make sure that the form is signed by two of the supervisors.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

A spring tree sale was discussed. Woody Warehouse will not be doing spring sales this year. Forrest-Keeling Nursery information was presented. Both bare-root stock and container grown trees are available. The staff will contact Forrest-Keeling for prices and shipping information. The board authorized the staff to gather information and make plans to conduct a spring tree sale with delivery being around mid April.

The board has received a request for Historic Hoosier Hills RC & D to appoint a representative for Clark County. Tami Kruer reported that Bob Bowen has served as our representative for the past few years. Mr. Bowen attended 11 of the last 12 RC & D Council meetings. A motion to re-appoint Bob Bowen as the Clark SWCD representative to HHH was made by Joe Madison; seconded by Peg Wright. Motion carried.

A request was received from the HHH RC & D for \$250 for dues for 2004. A motion to was made by Peg Wright to send \$250 to HHH for the 2004 dues; seconded by Dana Coots. Motion carried.

Election of officers for the SWCD Board of Supervisors was discussed. A nomination for a slate of officers was requested. Amil Kleinert moved to nominate Sam Hagest as Chairman and Dana Coots as Vice-Chairman; Peg Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mike Johnson spoke to the board about the Expanded Rule 5 Workshop that was held in Floyd County on March 3. The staff has discussed having a similar workshop for officials in Clark County if it meets the approval of the board. This would be a workshop, approximately 2 hours in length, and would be targeted toward county officials, city & town officials, plan commission members, city engineers, etc. The Rule 5 changes that took effect on November 26, 2003 would be discussed along with information from Bryan on NPS Pollution and Storm Drain Marking. Packets of information would be distributed to all participants. With the consensus of the board the staff will begin planning and implementation.

Mike Johnson also informed the board of another workshop that is in the planning stages. It would involve practices and practice installation such as seeding, silt fence vs. straw bales, erosion control blanket installation, etc. Mike had been contacted about the DNR and the SWCD supporting such a workshop. No monetary support will be requested. The staff will assist with technical assistance, mailing lists, etc. The workshop will be held at Earth First in Sellersburg. The target audience will be the practice installers. The board was in favor of assisting with the workshop.

Pat Larr reported on a pasture workshop that Margie Zoglmann is planning for Clark, Jefferson and Scott counties through her grant program. Plans are to have it at the Community Center in Marysville. More information will be forthcoming.

The no till drill was discussed. It was suggested that the drill be checked out before any rental begins. Mike Johnson offered to perform the routine maintenance needed on a volunteer basis. The board supported this idea.

Wildlife Food Plot Seed was discussed. Tami Kruer reported that Melanie has spoken with Mark Bennett, regarding the bulk seed that comes from the state wildlife biologists. The bulk seed is usually distributed to the conservation clubs/groups in the area. The office has received several calls regarding the 5 lb. bags of mixed seed that the district has purchased in the past. It was suggested that perhaps the district could sell the small bags instead of providing them free of charge. Bryan suggested that perhaps we could combine the sale of the seed with the tree sale. Prepaid orders will be taken. The consensus of the board was to have the staff contact Lewis Seed and proceed with the sale.

## **STAFF REPORTS**

In addition to his written report, Mike Johnson reported on the most significant changes in Rule 5; updated the board on the status of several developments in the county; has met with some of the city and town engineers to briefly update them on the Rule 5 changes.

Sam Hagest asked Mike if we were still involved in the inspections of the landfill. It was suggested that a letter be sent to Lynn Miller, requesting notice of landfill inspection reports.

Pat Larr has been working on signups for the EQIP program; one WHIP application has been submitted; Grassland Reserve Program is accepting new signups; continuous signups for CRP; Pat has also been with Margie on grazing land visits and planning. Pat informed the board of the new fee structure for the County Drainage Board. Fees will be collected for drainage plans and erosion and sediment control plan reviews. The Clark County Ordinance requires these plans. The drainage board will be seeking assistance from the SWCD for the review of these plans. Volunteers could be acquired to assist with these services. The SWCD would then bill the Drainage Board for their services.

Tami Kruer presented the board with a written report. She also informed the board that she and David Trotter would be meeting on the following day to finalize plans for the Earth Day event being held on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Along with a written report of his monthly activities, Bryan Wallace presented an update of his grant program specifying the status of each task. The grant period will be ending on June 30, 2004. Funds unused at the end of the grant would be sent back. Bryan has some ideas for additional activities that could be done with any excess funds. The staff will try to come up with some other ideas for things that may be useful to have on hand (publications, etc.) even after the grant period has ended.

Peg Wright inquired as to whether funds could be used to recognize developers for conservation friendly developments. Mike explained the difficulty in doing that because the conditions often change from day-to-day. Consensus was that this is a project the board might want to pursue in the future.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Thank You notes were received from IASWCD Ladies Auxiliary, Nicholas Fellows and The Clark County Cattlemen's Association.

A request was received from the Woodland Steward Institute for an annual sponsorship for the Woodland Steward Newsletter. The board suggested Melanie send a letter of response explaining our budget situation and our regret.

A quarterly statement was received from the Community Foundation of Southern Indiana regarding the Natural Resources Conservation Endowment.

Information was received regarding the SWCD Basic Training on March 11, in North Vernon Indiana at the Jennings Co. Public Library.

Sam received a letter from Sherm Bryant, IASWCD President, regarding NACD Dues.

A letter was received from Bob Allen. There will be no charge for a trophy sponsorship this year due to a trophy not being given last year.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 9:45 p.m.