

May 5, 2006

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, May 4, 2006.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Joe Madison, Peg Wright, Steve Hall, Jared Sawin, Tami Kruer, and Melanie Davis.

Sam Hagest called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Sam asked for additions or corrections to the April minutes. Hearing none, Peg Wright moved to approve minutes as written; Joe Madison seconded, and motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Tami Kruer stated the need to pursue the long-ranging planning process. The response to the Conservation Needs survey was poor, as was the response to the breakfast. With planting season underway, it was decided to forego any meetings and concentrate on getting public input via the surveys. Suggestions to increase the responses to the survey were: to send packets of surveys to local organizations such as Farm Bureau, Southern Indiana Botanical Society, and the Realtors Association; and to distribute surveys during the 4-H Fair.

Melanie Davis reported that she forwarded the supervisors' response to Denny Wilson's letter regarding rental payments by SWCDs, to Ginger Christie in Scott County. According to Ginger, she had received the letter and had forwarded it to Denny; we are awaiting comment from Jane Hardisty. USDA sent their first bill for rent, which covers 10/1/05-3/31/06; Melanie will be mailing payment this week.

NEW BUSINESS

Joe Madison questioned whether the board should reinstate mileage reimbursement for supervisors due to rising gas prices. Either mileage or a per diem can be paid as compensation, but not both. Melanie stated that per diem was \$35 previously. Tami Kruer noted that the County rate in 2000 was \$30. Joe Madison moved to reinstate per diem at the allowable rate for the County for attendance at meetings and other functions. Peg Wright seconded and motion carried.

Melanie reported that the staff felt the District should select a person for the River Friendly Farmer Award this year. Melanie distributed a list of persons previously nominated by the board, with award winners noted. Supervisors agreed that nominations should be sought and an award made. Staff will consult with Pat Larr and Mike Johnson for additions or deletions to the nominee list.

Melanie conveyed a request to the Board from Eddie Miller for an additional \$50 to mow the exhibit area. Peg Wright moved to pay Eddie \$50 more dollars for mowing; Joe Madison seconded. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS

Jared Sawin, Urban Conservation Specialist, reported that the Spring newsletter is done and has been distributed to the municipalities. Moida, FMSM Engineers, has edited the first Spanish version of the newsletter to be distributed at select locations. Qualified Professional Training development is ongoing; Jared has been working closely on it with Steve Hall and staff at FMSM, and with the Floyd County SWCD. Jared attended the Commissioners meeting today and reported that Brian Dixon has been named as the County Stormwater Coordinator. Jared met with Ken Alexander and Jay Tanner of Sellersburg, and Joe Hamm of Jeffersonville, recently and reviewed Year 3 tasks that need to be completed. Ken Alexander has offered to share booth space with the SWCD at Sellersburg Celebrates.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator/Executive Director, reported that increasing outreach activities and improving customer service were discussed during a recent staff meeting. One result of the meeting is a new pond packet developed by the staff. The packets contain information related to pond management and construction, and will be given out to customers seeking help on ponds. Staff also has begun plans for the Fair. Guests will include Jason Emmons - chainsaw carver, Sunnyside Master Gardeners, Southern Indiana Beekeepers, and the National Muzzelloading Rifle Association. Tami stated that staff hopes to target different groups that visit the Fair, such as the Homemakers, with displays on home canning, growing and painting gourds, and alternative crops. Methods of advertising events and displays were discussed and included PSAs, paid advertising, bulletin boards, inclusion in the Fair "book", and announcements during the Fair on our PA system. New promotional items were also considered, such as yard sticks, jar openers, magnets and t-shirts. Staff will research possible items and their cost. Tami reported that she has received only one application for the Marvin Wright Scholarship, and that came from James Patrick Bowen, last year's recipient. The deadline is Monday, May 8th. It was decided to extend the deadline to allow time for additional applications to be received.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, reported that she had contacted Pete Kerrigan regarding painting the roofs of the grain bins. He was recommended by Dana Coots and was the person who painted the roofs last. He will be in the area soon and will stop by to give an estimate.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary