

May 2, 2008

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, May 1, 2008, at 7:30 p.m.

Those present were Peg Wright, Amil Kleinert, Bruce Adams, Sylvia Hottel, Pat Larr, Jared Sawin, and Melanie Davis. Not present were Sam Hagest and Dana Coots.

Amil asked for additions or corrections to the April minutes. Hearing none, Bruce moved to approve minutes as written; Peg seconded, and motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Melanie stated that Joe Madison turned down the opportunity to be the Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D representative for the District. One person had responded to the news release, which appeared in the newspaper, and was supposed to submit contact information, but has not. Supervisors suggested running the release again to see if that person called again.

Melanie introduced Brian Kendall, Crop Production Services (CPS). Brian will be working with the District on the CWI Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant (SNRG). Brian explained that CPS will be doing soil testing for the grant at a cost of ½ the list price to the District. Test results will be provided to growers that will show where samples were taken from their fields and the PH, phosphorus, and potassium levels. Brian will then discuss fertilizer application with growers. A Pasture Workshop Breakfast will be held June 11th at 7:30 a.m. Growers who participate in the workshop will have the opportunity to get free soil testing, and the incentive payment if they follow through with the application. Brian plans to do the soil tests during July and August; turn-around time for the results is about 2 weeks.

Melanie stated that she has been unable to make plans for the Real Estate Workshop that is part of the Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant. The workshop was to be given during the 2008 Home Show, however, there is not going to be a Show, but a "Parade of Homes." Melanie contacted the Homebuilder's Association and they did not think it was feasible to hold the workshop during the Parade. Peg will contact Chad and Brent Sprigler to see if they would be willing to host the workshop at Champion's Point subdivision.

All funds for buffers from the CWI Buffer Initiative have been allocated. Once a producer notifies the District that the buffers have been seeded, Pat or Mike Johnson will inspect them. Incentive payments will be made after inspection of the buffers.

Tami spoke with Mike Waiz of the Community Foundation. He has researched the options for our fund, and says that it is no longer necessary for us to have a scholarship committee; we can operate as we have

in the past. In addition, earnings on our fund can now roll over to the next period if not distributed instead of rolling back into the fund. This may allow us to award a larger scholarship by waiting until next year to do so.

Tami encouraged supervisors to attend the Leadership in Change workshop, August 1-2, at the Holiday Inn Lakeview, Clarksville. Janet Ayres will be a speaker. Tami is compiling a list of things to do and places to see for the spouses that accompany workshop attendees.

NEW BUSINESS

The Clark County 4H Fair will be July 12-19. Given the state of the current economy, exhibits will focus on things to do in Clark County that will allow residents to “vacation” here; homemade items such as gourd crafts, quilts, and spinning wool; bird watching and other low-cost activities. Raptor Rehab, the Naturalist from Charlestown State Park, and chainsaw carving will probably also be on the schedule.

STAFF REPORTS

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that she has been busy working with folks on seeding practices; cutoff date for seeding is May 15. On May 12th, NRCS student trainee Rebecca Ertel will start working with Pat. Area Conservationist, Teresah Caire has been reassigned to the State office. Pat will be acting in that position during August and September. EQIP applications are still being accepted, although there are no funds available at present.

Jared Sawin, Urban Conservation Specialist, presented a written report of his activities.

Sylvia Hottel, Silver Creek Watershed Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator/Executive Director, presented a written report of her activities. She is working on a list of farms that have received the Hoosier Homestead award in Clark County. Tami plans to create a map that will show people where the farms are located, and have applications available if they would like to apply in the future.

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

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you cards were received from the families of Robert D. McFrye and Mamie Shields. There will be an Area Partnership Meeting, Tuesday, June 17, 8 a.m.-2:45 p.m. It will be held at Versailles State Park, Oak Grove Shelter. Lunch will be provided. RSVP by June 6.

With no further business, Amil Kleinert adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary