

November 17, 2005

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Wednesday, November 16, 2005.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Amil Kleinert, Peg Wright, Joe Madison, Dana Coots, Tami Kruer, Pat Larr, Mike Johnson, Jared Sawin, Melanie Davis, and guest, Sharon Madison.

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Pat Larr stated that the District's 319 Watershed Grant application has been submitted. After meeting with Jennifer Boyle of IDEM, it was decided to combine two of the proposal ideas into one. Jennifer felt this would give the application a better chance. Water quality testing for Silver Creek, and a public education phase with emphasis on small farms were included in the proposal, with money designated for a coordinator/educator to complete the tasks. Indiana American Water Company agreed to do the water quality testing, and FMSM Engineers donated their interpretive services, which resulted in over \$50,000 in-kind match for the grant. Among the other partners are the Town of Clarksville, Scott County SWCD, 4-H Horse and Pony, and the Clark State Forest. The application passed the first screening phase and has now been forwarded on to EPA for review.

Melanie Davis presented supervisors with the menu selections for Rolling Pin Catering. The Rolling Pin was the sole bid in response to the District's ad for catering the Annual Meeting; cost will remain the same as last year - \$10. Melanie stated that ticket price for last year's meal was set at \$10; Board members decided to keep that price. Fried chicken and pork loin medallions were selected as meats for the meal. No one has come forward as a candidate for the election. Supervisors are to let Melanie know if they find prospective candidates before the Dec. 1 deadline. A "Virtual Bus Tour" of conservation buffers installed in the county is the proposed program for the meeting. It was discussed and decided that awards will again be given to the forestry and entomology judging team members if applicable, along with Conservationist of the Year awards. The Leader has quoted a price of ~\$400 for printing the Annual Report.

NEW BUSINESS

Melanie reported that an evaluation form of the SWCD Phase II assistance program had been sent to the municipalities. Only two responses were received, both of those favorable. It was hoped that the responses would assist in Jared Sawin's 6-month evaluation. Jared's review will be scheduled after the remaining evaluations are received. Some of the municipalities have expressed interest in reviewing their agreements and where they are at as far as their Phase II requirements are concerned. Jared will be meeting with them in the near future. Pat Larr mentioned that the District was collecting money through the assistance program for office space rental; this money should be passed on to the appropriate partner agency. Supervisors agreed.

STAFF REPORTS

Mike Johnson, ISDA Resource Specialist, stated that he is officially part of the Salem Tech-Team, but stationed here in Clark County. He will be traveling throughout an eleven county area now. He is no longer required to attend SWCD board meetings, so therefore, will not be giving a monthly report to the Board.

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that she now works in the Scott County SWCD on Tuesdays and Thursdays. She is in the process of preparing for the 2006 EQIP program sign-ups, and has scheduled a meeting of the EQIP workgroup on November 22nd at 10 a.m. in the Ag Center Conference room; local priorities will be reviewed and ranked. She noted that a 2003 GRP easement on Amil Kliener's property was recently closed. Other projects were not completed plans this year for various reasons but are on tap for next year. Most projects will be designed by the Tech Teams now. The Steering Committee for Grazing Land Grant met last week. Bob Steiner will be leaving at the end of November (the end of the grant), but will be on call thereafter. As a result, much of the follow-up work on projects not yet completed will need to be done by District staff. Money for the grant was extended to May 30th so that spring seeding dates could be included. The grant has approximately \$94,000 left in cost-share money to be spent. Pat mentioned that the Clark's Valley Land Trust has eight new members in Harrison County. Harrison County commissioners are very interested in such an organization for their county. It is likely the name of the land trust will change and a new board of directors will be elected; revisions to by-laws are also expected. Lastly, Pat urged District supervisors and staff to keep abreast of the changes NRCS and ISDA are implementing; it appears that more responsibility is being shifted to the District in regards to customer service.

Jared Sawin, Urban Conservation Specialist, reported that he has been meeting with the entities regarding the preparation of their Phase II program annual reports. Chris York, IDEM Office of Water Quality, visited a meeting in Clarksville recently and stressed the importance of communities completing all the requirements of Phase II. In compiling annual reports, Jared found that the stormwater web site receives about 200 hits a day, a good indication that public education efforts are working. Jared stated that he has taken on the responsibility of Rule 5 plan reviews since the Board last met. He has reviewed two Rule 5 plans in the past two months so he did not feel it was a burden to his work load.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities. She noted that the District vehicle was serviced twice last week. Once for tires and oil change, and another to have the starter replaced.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, received NACDs' request for Quota contributions for 2006. Gold level is 1% of a District's budget, Silver is \$775, and Bronze is less than \$775. Supervisors agreed to pay \$775. Melanie distributed copies of the registration form for the 2006 IASWCD Annual Conference. It will be at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown, January 17-19. Early registration discount ends January 10th; hotel reservations are needed by December 16. Melanie noted changes in this year's conference: the dates fall on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday as opposed to the traditional Sunday evening start date; 3-day full registration now includes the meals – the Kick-off Luncheon, Network Lunch, Awards Banquet and Legislative Breakfast; and single day registration is only available for Tuesday and Wednesday. Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, and Peg Wright will be attending the Conference. Melanie asked for suggestions for the December board meeting date and place. December 8th was chosen as the date; location and/or meal will be decided later.

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