

November 2, 2007

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, November 1, 2007, at 7:30 p.m.

Those present were Amil Kleinert, Joe Madison, Peg Wright, Tami Kruer, Jared Sawin, Sylvia Hottel, Mike Johnson, Laura Fribley, and Melanie Davis.

Amil asked for additions or corrections to the September minutes. Hearing none, Joe Madison moved to approve minutes as written; Peg Wright seconded, and motion carried.

The Financial Report was reviewed. Peg moved to approve the report; Joe seconded. Motion passed. Melanie distributed a Profit & Loss statement on the fall tree sale for review.

OLD BUSINESS

Tami Kruer stated that there is a Senate bill that made it out of the House Ag Committee that is attached to the 2007 Farm Bill that proposes to keep all FSA offices slated for closure in 2007/early 2008 open for the life of the Farm Bill, which is five years. There is bi-partisan support for the bill; supporters are telling constituents in their states that their offices will not close.

The District received a letter from the Community Foundation last week stating that “the amount available for distribution from the fund you represent was designated to go to a charity which was named in the originating agreement of the fund.” Upon calling the Foundation, Melanie was told that the SWCD is the named charity. Tami received an email from Mike Waiz stating that the scholarship committee, consisting of Tami, Sylvia Hottel, and Peg Wright, seemed “suspect”, and it would be better if one or possibly two more members were added. After discussion, it was decided to research other options of investing the money.

NEW BUSINESS

Laura Fribley led a discussion on District Law based on Indiana Code Chapter 5 – Powers and Duties of Districts. She also presented key decisions of the State Soil Conservation Board regarding Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grants. She encouraged the district to start thinking about grant possibilities that focus on sediment reduction and/or nutrient management. Funds will be competitive. She asked if the district developed an Annual Work Plan, and stated that they are very useful in achieving business plan goals. In response to a question regarding insurance coverage for the district, she said that districts are protected by the Indiana Tort Claims Act. There may be other coverage provided through the IASWCD. The district can contact Larry Jackson to speak with him about that.

Annual Meeting will be January 1, 2008. Rolling Pin Catering, Versailles, and Elizabeth Upton, Charlestown, submitted bids to cater the meal. Supervisors reviewed both bids. Joe moved to accept

Rolling Pin Catering's bid; Peg seconded, and motion carried. Price for tickets for the meal was set at \$10. Melanie stated that she had submitted the names of the election committee to the State office as follows: Peg Wright, Melanie Davis, and Tami Kruer. She also submitted the Recommendation for Appointed Supervisor for Amil Kleinert. Joe Madison's term as an elected supervisor expires this year. He will notify the board as to his desire to run for re-election. Melanie asked if the supervisors would like to present Conservationists of the Year awards this year. She noted that a good candidate for the Forestry award would be Jane Irby. Jane has purchased large quantities of trees from each tree sale the district has had, and is always willing to purchase extra trees if asked. Supervisors agreed that Jane should be acknowledged, however, they felt Urban Forestry would be a more appropriate category for her.

Melanie distributed information on Annual Conference. There is no deadline for registration, however, rates will go up January 8, 2008. Hotel reservations need to be made by December 14, 2007. Price of registration this year includes the two luncheons, and the Legislative Breakfast; it does not include the Awards Banquet. Laura noted that the CWI grant to cover training sessions has been increased to \$1500 this year.

STAFF REPORTS

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, was not present for a report.

Jared Sawin, Urban Conservation Specialist, reported that he attended two EPA webinars at FMSM's office. He met with Ronnie Boehm recently regarding the ongoing problems with Sunset Hills. He also met with Brian Dixon and On-site Fleet Services as a result of a neighbor complaint. On-site started a project and have no plans to complete it in the near future. Jared published and delivered the fall newsletter. Jared and Kevin (Urban Conservation, Floyd County) developed and presented a workshop for Prosser students that are taking classes related to the construction industry. Approximately 80 students attended. The purpose of the workshop was to introduce them to the requirements of Phase II. The workshop was well received and may be repeated each year.

Sylvia Hottel, Silver Creek Watershed Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities and the Horse Management brochure she developed for her grant project. Sylvia submitted an ordinance on behalf of the SWCD to be considered for the new zoning plan. It calls for the incorporation of 50 ft. riparian buffers against streams in new developments in the Silver Creek Watershed.

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

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

The December board meeting will be December 6th, and will be followed by a Christmas party. Probable location is Sam Hagest's home; time and other details to be determined.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

With no further business, Amil Kleinert adjourned the meeting at 9:15 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary

