

October 5, 2009

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, October 1, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Amil Kleinert, Bruce Adams, Dana Coots, Peg Wright, Tami Kruer, Phil Collins, Pat Larr, Laura Fribley, Mike Johnson, and Melanie Davis.

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

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

Phil Collins notified supervisors that he has accepted another position. His last day with the District will be October 16. Supervisors asked that he complete any pending plan reviews, and prepare a procedures list for his responsibilities before leaving.

#### OLD BUSINESS

Tami will be sending a letter regular mail to the Popp's regarding paying for the repairs on the no-till drill. Melanie stated that several persons have used the drill and one reported that the depth gauge adjuster on one of the rows was broken.

Tami, Phil, and Pat met with the Jeffersonville Drainage Board regarding the Urban Conservation Program. At their recent meeting, the board passed a resolution to support the District's program up to a maximum of \$34,000. This was based on the county paying in \$17,000, Sellersburg \$6,000, and Jeffersonville \$34,000, according to population distribution and no participation from Clarksville. Pat said they will be meeting with the County next to discuss the program.

Melanie reported that she had received emails recently on the District's EPA 319 application for the Silver Creek Watershed Implementation Project. The emails requested additional MS4 information, and a support letter from the Clark County Drainage Board. Staff has gathered the information and submitted it to IDEM.

Tami provided a list of answers to questions about the Qualified Professional Training asked by supervisors at the last board meeting. Stantec anticipates the District processing about 50 checks and writing out 8. The \$250 test fee they are charging includes a training session to be held at Kye's. Certification enables graduates to do self-inspections of construction sites. Supervisors proposed that the District retain 15% of the fee for the District's services.

Melanie announced that the "Buffers in the City" workshop would be held tomorrow at Wathen Park from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Susan Knowles, U.S. Fish & Wildlife, Amil Kleinert, and Pat Larr will be speaking. Lunch will be provided courtesy of Walnut Ridge Nursery.

Melanie informed the board that the District's request to distribute the funds (approximately \$3600-\$3700) remaining from its' 2008 SNRG project among project participants, was denied. However, it is still possible for the District to use the funds as long as the original intent of the project was not changed. A request for a time extension would need to be submitted. Options for utilizing the funds were discussed that included contacting the list of workshop attendees that didn't soil test and/or fertilize to determine their interest in completing those steps, opening the program to other producers, and purchasing a light bar that the District would rent out. Laura stated that purchasing equipment would be considered a change of scope for the project and may not meet approval by the SSCB. Bruce moved to modify the grant application and propose the purchase of two light bars that would be made available for lease to county landowners. Amil seconded the motion; motion passed.

Melanie contacted Mike Gregg about representing the District on Historic Hoosier Hill's Woodland Committee. Mike was agreeable representing the District but on a rotating basis with someone else. He felt he could only attend meetings every other month. Supervisors thought attending bi-monthly would be sufficient for the District. Melanie will contact Mike to see if he will do that instead of rotating with another person.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Laura Fribley distributed information on the 2010 Clean Water Indiana grant program. Grants are non-competitive, and each district will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$7,000 but may not receive the full amount based on availability of funds. Deadline for applying is November 1. Grants are 50% cash match. Partnering with other counties is encouraged. Bruce moved to apply for a CWI grant for the purpose of purchasing light bars (Cost-share incentive), hiring a technician (District Capacity Building-staffing) to oversee the District's equipment rental program, and for leadership development (District Capacity Building-leadership training). Dana seconded the motion and motion carried. Consensus was to rescind the earlier motion to purchase light bars with SNRG funds, and instead ask for a time extension on that grant.

The board discussed the 2010 budget. The county Council has requested each office cut 22% from their 2009 approved budget. Supervisors decided to submit the budget cutting operational expenses while retaining salaries. Staff will prepare a letter explaining the cuts the District is willing to take, including the additional expense of office rent for 2010, and the reasons for retaining staff and salaries. The Council will meet with officeholders on Wednesday, October 7. Tami will call and schedule a time for the District. Bruce will likely attend the meeting.

Supervisor terms were discussed. Amil stated he will most likely leave his position as an appointed supervisor at the end of his term, which ends in January 2011. Sam Hagest's term is up this year.

Annual Meeting date is January 28, 2010; snow date will be February 4<sup>th</sup>. Melanie will be advertising for catering bids. She will confirm the availability of both dates with the selected caterer, and with the Extension office for the Community Building. An election committee was appointed for the Annual Meeting consisting of Dana Coots, Peg Wright, and Melanie Davis.

The USDA Privacy Policy requires an Executive Session for the discussion of records containing confidential information, i.e. conservation plans. A representative may be appointed to sign the plans. Supervisors decided to schedule an Executive Session 15 minutes prior to board meetings where plans need to be signed, designating Sam as the representative.

There will be a retirement reception for Pat on December 3, 2-6 p.m. The board will hold their December board meeting immediately following the reception.

Tami reported that there is a new SSCB member from Clark County. His name is Scott Ham, and he is the manager of Silver Creek Water Company. It was suggested that the District invite Mr. Ham to visit the District office, possibly giving him a tour of conservation practices in the county, and also to attend the Annual Meeting.

Bruce Adams moved to accept Phil Collins' resignation. Peg seconded, and motion passed. Staff will advertise the position next week.

#### STAFF REPORTS

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that she has been working on end-of-the-year EQIP payments, reviews, and modifications. There has been no activity on Conservation Security Program. She encouraged supervisors help spread the word about the program as it provides a \$12-24 per acre payment when program conditions are met.

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

Phil Collins, Urban Conservation Specialist, presented a written report.

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

#### CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

#### CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Early registration for IASWCD Annual Conference, January 11-13, 2010, is due November 30<sup>th</sup>.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 10 p.m.

Melanie Davis  
Secretary