

September 5, 2003

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, September 4, 2003.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, Amil Kleinert, Joe Madison, Tami Kruer, Bryan Wallace, Pat Larr, and Melanie Davis. Not in attendance was Peg Wright and Mike Johnson.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. A motion was made by Joe Madison and seconded by Dana Coots to approve minutes as written. Motion passed with all approving.

The Financial report was reviewed. Melanie Davis distributed an additional report showing receipts from no-till drill rental. Receipts total \$1,512.40 to date. The balance of \$4,000.00 owed on the drill is due at the end of the year. Dana Coots moved to approve the financial report; Joe Madison seconded. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Pat Larr gave an update on the status of the Grazing Lands Specialist grant. Margaret Zoglmann, who has been hired for the Specialist position, is still waiting for the grant to start. She will be coming here next week to look for a house. Pat called Amy Henninger, our IDEM contact, to see if there were any new projections on a start date. According to Amy, the state has received its money from EPA and our contract has now been sent to the Budget department for review. Budget will then forward it to the Attorney General's office for his signature. The Attorney General has 45 days in which to sign it. Amy felt that it wouldn't take that long and that an October 1 start date would be possible. Worst-case scenario would be the entire 45 days and a start date in mid-November. Dana Coots will contact Senator Jim Lewis and Representative James Bottorff, to see if they could expedite the signing process. Other suggestions were to call Dean Farr, Executive Director of the IASWCD, or Sherm Bryant, to see if they could make some contacts. Amy said that the farther along the contract gets in the approval process, the more accountability it receives, and the easier it is to track in the process.

Tami Kruer reported that she met with Walt Zak and is supposed to contact him Friday or Monday to confirm a date for the Forestry Field Day. Tentative dates are either Saturday, October 18 or November 1. The field day will be held at the forestry. The forestry is having a soils workshop prior to our field day, which will involve digging soil pits. There is a possibility that we can use those pits as part of the day's activities.

Melanie Davis reported that she talked with Barbara Haas in the Auditor's office concerning the budget hearings. Barbara said that Council is conducting budget hearings today and will continue until they are done, which could be this afternoon or tomorrow. Discussion was held and it was decided that income and expenses needed to be reviewed and a projected budget developed.

NEW BUSINESS

Our 60th Annual Meeting will take place in 2004. Melanie said that she had tried to contact Linda at Rolling Pin Catering to see if she would be available to cater it, but was not successful. The date of the meeting will be determined once Melanie talks to Linda.

Preparations for next year's 4-H fair were discussed. Repairs are needed to get the fish tank in working order. The tank leaked badly this year due to cracks in the walls. The walls need to be coated somehow to prevent leaks. Pat mentioned that Mike Johnson had suggested contacting David LeMay for information and pricing on a Line-X coating. Line-X can be made in any color, however there was a question as to whether it would adhere to concrete. Line-X could also be quite expensive for the area we have to cover, therefore Mike had suggested asking Mr. LeMay if he would defer part of the cost in return for advertisement. Staff will research options for fixing the tank. It was questioned whether the format of the programs presented in the Exhibit Area should be changed. Offering different programs and activities each night seemed to work last year, but did not seem to draw many people this year. This may have been due to low attendance during the first part of the week for the entire fair.

STAFF REPORTS

Mike Johnson, IDNR Resource Specialist, was not present for a report.

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that the Muddy Fork Conservancy Structure #6 is coming along and should be finished by the end of October. There will be a field day on October 17 at 10 a.m., which supervisors are invited to. Pat stated that several grass waterways are under construction, however recent rains have caused some damage to them. Pat has been working on CRP contracts to prepare to build more waterways. She has been helping Harrison County with their EQIP workload. No contracts for EQIP were approved in Clark County. She will also be assisting Harrison County with their CRP contracts. Pat reported that she had received a new hand-held GPS unit from NRCS. She is waiting to have the software necessary to use it, loaded on her computer.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator, presented a written report of her activities for the past month. Tami noted that she and David Trotter would be working together on an Earth Day program for 2004. In past years, she and David participated in Earth Day activities sponsored by the Solid Waste District, however Solid Waste no longer sponsors that day.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, reported that she is going on vacation in two weeks.

Bryan Wallace, Urban Project Coordinator, reported he has a workshop scheduled for Thursday, September 11, from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. at Noah's Ark. This is the last required workshop of his grant. Bryan submitted a newsletter to The Courier-Journal, which was inserted in today's paper, advertising the SWCD tree sale and workshop. He has already received some calls in response to it. He attended a Drainage 101 workshop last week compliments of Oak Park Conservancy District. He reported that it was an excellent workshop with a lot of good drainage information presented. Storm drain marking is continuing. The Boy Scouts marked drains in Sellersburg last month; the Girl Scouts have also contacted Bryan about doing a marking day. Bryan will be speaking at a microbiology class at IUS as well as attending a "Save the Earth Day" programs one week later.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

Conservation plans for Larry Mooney, Sarah Koetter, and Huber Brothers were signed.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary