

September 3, 2004

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, September 2, 2004.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Dana Coots, Amil Kleinert, Peg Wright, Tami Kruer, Joe Madison, Mike Johnson, and Melanie Davis.

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

The Financial report was reviewed. Amil Kleinert moved to approve the financial report; Joe Madison seconded. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Staffing/Funding Proposal for Rule 13 discussion was tabled in lieu of the County's budget hearings. Supervisors felt they would have a better idea of what funding will be available in 2005 once the hearings are over.

Tami Kruer attended the first two days of budget hearings. She reported that the Council did not appear to have the information necessary to make spending decisions or budget cuts. Tami had been asked to speak the first day on behalf of the District. She told Council members that she was there to try to insure that the District's operating budget was not cut as it had been in the past two years. She mentioned the assistance that the District could provide in meeting Phase II requirements in the County. Barbara Haas asked Tami if there was a legal reason that the District's budget was paid from Commissioner's budget. Tami informed Barbara that funding for SWCD's is determined county by county, not by any District law. During the two days of discussion, the Council had proposed freezing employee salaries, and cutting insurance benefits and base pay.

NEW BUSINESS

Melanie Davis asked supervisors to set a date for the District's 2005 Annual Meeting. She would like to advertise for catering bids. Supervisors selected the last Thursday of January, the 27th, as the meeting date. Alternate dates in case facilities are not available will be: February 3, January 20, January 25, and February 1.

Melanie presented information on NRCS' Agreement For Intermittent Use of Transportation Equipment. This agreement is required if NRCS vehicles are driven by District employees. It states that the District will carry insurance to cover damages to NRCS vehicles that may occur while being driven by District employees. Melanie spoke with Dean Farr, IASWCD Director, about the agreement. Dean stated that such an agreement has been in effect with NRCS and the SWCD's for some time, however, it may have been 5 or more years since NRCS has sent one out for signature. Dean said that, historically, NRCS has absorbed the cost of repairs when District employees have been involved in accidents. The exception would be if the vehicle were driven for unauthorized business. Tami and Melanie stated that they rarely drive the NRCS vehicle; they use the County or their personal vehicle. Supervisors felt that the amount of District use did not warrant signing the agreement at this time. They also asked Melanie to seek a more detailed explanation of the agreement from NRCS.

STAFF REPORTS

Mike Johnson, IDNR Resource Specialist, reported that he attended meetings with FMSM regarding Phase II and stormwater quality. He also has been working on continuous CRP waterways. A new procedure initiated by DNR and NRCS requires Pat to give Mike a referral before he can begin work on a waterway. Over the summer, Mike has: worked at the Indiana State Fair – Path of Water Quality exhibit; worked with Margie on grant projects that require elements to be designed, such as spring developments or watering systems; helped Missy with waterway training; met with 21st Century Developers and other homebuilders to update them on Rule 5 regulations; and met with Mark Standiford of IDEM enforcement, to inspect Whispering Oaks subdivision and discuss enforcement actions with its developer.

Tami Kruer, Education Coordinator, had no report.

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, presented IDEM's congratulatory letter for completion of the Urban Nonpoint Source Pollution Education grant. IDEM is processing the last invoice of the grant and will be forwarding it to the SWCD. Melanie also received NACD's Quota Invoice, which requests District's remit 1% of their base operating budget or \$775.

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

Conservation plans were approved and signed on: C & C Farms, Vernon Hostetler, Raymond Davis, Randy Hostetler, and Kendall Hostetler.

OTHER BUSINESS

Tami Kruer stated that Bob Bowen had been in to visit recently. He asked Tami if he needed to resign from his position as our HHH committee person due to his recent stroke. Supervisors felt a resignation was not necessary if Bob desired to stay on the committee, and his health would allow it.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary