

August 31, 2005

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Tuesday, August 30, 2005.

Those present were Sam Hagest, Amil Kleinert, Peg Wright, Joe Madison, Dana Coots, Tami Kruer, Pat Larr, Mike Johnson, Jared Sawin, Steve Hall, 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; Dana Coots seconded, and motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Pat Larr and District staff presented their Summary of Grant Ideas for a watershed project compiled during their meeting on August 18. Pat noted that the deadline for grant applications is October 1st, and that the 319 grants require a 25% in-kind or cash match; the District previously used in-kind match for Bryan's project. Seven ideas were reviewed:

1. Silver Creek Watershed Diagnostic and Outreach – planning and analysis, no implementation, public outreach
2. Fourteen Mile Creek Diagnostic and Outreach – planning and analysis, no implementation, public outreach
3. Suburban Stewardship for Water Quality – educational focus, county-wide
4. Education for Non-point Urban Pollution – county-wide outreach to business and individuals
5. Septic Tank Awareness – education, program and maintenance coordination
6. Urban Buffers, Stream Corridors, Forestry and Backyard Conservation – working with local officials, planning commissions, and other government entities to educate, inform, and encourage officials to utilize urban forestry practices, streambank protection, and conservation measures in developments; promote Backyard Conservation activities and the use of urban buffers; build relationships with municipalities and neighborhood groups.
7. Riparian zone Evaluation and Restoration – use GIS system to evaluate riparian buffer zones and determine those with insufficient riparian protection in the Silver Creek watershed; outreach activities.

The possibility of submitting more than one application was considered. Staff did not feel there would be a problem in doing so if time allowed. Steve Hall noted that multiple applications have been approved in Districts before within the same year, however, Districts do have the option of refusing a grant offer. Grants are normally awarded for two years. There is also the option to submit a grant for planning and outreach, and then after the first year of that grant, submit an application for implementation dollars. After discussion, supervisors selected ideas #1 and #6. Staff will begin work on the application(s); Steve Hall offered his assistance.

NEW BUSINESS

Tami Kruer reported that the Budget Hearings will be September 6, 7, and 8. The Council will have their meeting on Tuesday (Sept. 6) at 9 a.m. and will go into budget hearings after that. Tami talked with Barbara Haas and Barbara Hollis about the schedule for speaking to the Council. Both of them indicated that no schedule had been made, and that the Council would hear offices as they appeared. Barbara Hollis did say that she would attempt to make a schedule if time allowed, but could not guarantee the Council would follow it. Tami will try to find out if she does indeed make one, and if so, will notify the supervisors as to the District's time to be at the hearings.

Melanie Davis informed supervisors that she would be advertising for catering bids for the District's Annual Meeting soon. The Rolling Pin catered last year's meal. It was suggested that if Rolling Pin submitted an accepted bid this year, to choose fried chicken and roast beef as meats.

Melanie reported that it is once again time to select a Delegate and Alternate to attend Annual Conference. Sam Hagest was selected as Delegate; Peg Wright will be the Alternate.

STAFF REPORTS

Mike Johnson, ISDA Resource Specialist, stated that many changes have been made within the Division of Soil Conservation and more are to come. The Partnership meeting this Thursday night, September 1, will be an important one for supervisors to attend as many of the upcoming changes will be presented. Mike stated that only four Resource Specialists remain in this area. They will work solely with the Tech Team in Salem, and will focus only on those programs/projects that leverage Federal dollars. Mike will be housed in the Clark County office, but may be required to travel anywhere in the region. His services to the District will be limited and he will no longer handle Rule 5 or Rule 13 reviews. Mike stated that the purpose of all the changes is so that ISDA can align itself with the USDA and provide the staff needed to assist the USDA with their objectives. Mike also mentioned that there may be changes in the disbursement of the \$10,000 grant money each District receives annually.

Pat Larr, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that she recently went to Philadelphia for an Earth Team conference, and has been working on plans for EQIP, CRP, and Grazing Lands Grant projects. She noted that funding was received for Amil Kleinert's Grassland Reserve Program easement. Pat advised the Board that the Muddy Fork Conservancy District has filed a condemnation suit to acquire the majority of the property for a new structure. Also, she, Tami,

and Amil recently met with a group from Jefferson County who is very interested in joining the Clark's Valley Land Trust. The group is interested in organizing a new board of directors and seeking money to acquire easements through the Farmland Protection program. CVLT will meet with the group again on the 14th. Pat will be starting as DC in Scott County on Tuesday, September 6. She will then be dividing her office time between Scott and Clark counties

Jared Sawin, Urban Conservation Specialist, was not present but submitted a written report of his activities.

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

Melanie Davis, Administrative Coordinator, had no report

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

With no further business, Sam Hagest adjourned the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Melanie Davis
Secretary