

September 3, 2010

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, September 2, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.

Those present were Dana Coots, Bruce Adams, Amil Kleinert, Peg Wright, Tami Kruer, Matt Bell, Jennifer Kipper, and Melanie Davis.

Dana asked for additions or corrections to the August minutes. Hearing none, Peg moved to approve minutes as written; Bruce seconded, and motion carried.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Melanie presented draft guidelines and the application for the Cover Crop Program that will utilize the remainder of the 2010 CWI grant funds. Both were discussed. It was decided not to make any changes to either. Melanie will prepare news releases for the program to announce it, and include it in the District's newsletter. Scott County is interested in partnering with the District on a similar program for a 2011 CWI grant. Grant recipients receive an extra \$1,000 for partnerships between counties.

Bruce reported that the County Council voted to give the District funds for employee salaries, which it lost in the 2010 budget cut. The Council denied the request for lost operating expenses. Budget sessions were held September 1st and 2nd; budget hearings will be later in the month.

Melanie presented The Rolling Pin's bid to cater the Annual Meeting. Peg moved to accept the bid pending the receipt of any other bids by the deadline, September 3. Bruce seconded and motion carried.

Tami and Matt attended the SWAC Committee joint presentation for Reggie Korthals, IDEM, for their MS4 program audit. Stormwater coordinators were in attendance, as well as some Drainage Board members, and representatives from Georgetown. Reggie noted that there are probably more outreach opportunities that could be taken, and modifications that could be done to the web site. She questioned whether any communities had worked with the churches in their area. This may be a partnership opportunity for the Clark and Floyd County SWCDs for Stewardship Week if the theme is appropriate. There will be a written report of Reggie's audit. Construction audits for each municipality will be the next part of the audit. Clark County will have a separate audit from the other MS4s because they have asked to be excluded from Phase II requirements. Ivy Tech will likely be required to meet permit requirements in the next permitting cycle.

The next Leadership Conference will be held in Madison, IN, December 3-4, 2010, at Clifty Falls State Park. Impacting community is the topic. Registration materials are not available at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

NRCS is asking that we convene the Local Working Group for our county by October 15th. Local Working Groups provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for conservation activities and programs. It was decided to notify convene the group at 7 p.m. on October 7th, immediately prior to the SWCD board meeting.

Peg Wright, Dana Coots, and Sam Hagest were selected to serve on the Election Committee for the 2011 supervisor election to be held at the SWCD Annual Meeting in January.

Tami reported that Deb Aschack contacted her regarding Jeffersonville becoming a Tree City. Tree City USA is a program that requires a city to institute a tree ordinance (which Jeff already has), have a tree board, budget or spend \$2 per capita for tree planting, and host an Arbor Day event each year. Deb wants to set up meeting with Tami, Melanie, and Bryan Wallace to put together a plan of action, and discuss what the SWCD could do to assist Jeffersonville in fulfilling the requirements. In addition, Deb wants to publicize the District tree sale. Copies of the Fall Tree sale brochure and posters have been sent to Deb. Jeffersonville may also start a composting program to accommodate limbs and debris from the additional trees, which would be another opportunity for District involvement.

Rob Huckaby of Stantec contacted Tami recently regarding the Harrison County Regional Sewer District submitting a 319 grant application for the Indian Creek Watershed. Rob asked if the SWCD would partner with the Sewer District on some educational activities, since there are parts of Indian Creek watershed that are within Clark County. Rob suggested the possibility of having the steering committee of the Silver Creek watershed grant meet with those of Indian Creek. Tami did not know if the Indian Creek proposal had received preliminary approval from IDEM; she is waiting to hear from Rob on that.

Melanie presented an email from Darrell Nicholson, NRCS Area Conservationist, regarding the number of computer seats available in each office. He is recommending that any Districts requesting to add persons to the USDA network, who are not filling existing positions, send a letter to Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist, requesting network access. The letter should be sent one month in advance of the actual date access is desired to allow time for Jane to make a decision. Jennifer will check to see if each person hired is assigned a computer seat, or if they are able to share the computers already in the office. Melanie will draft a letter to Jane regarding the 319 grant technician and educator positions that will be filled at the end of this year.

No other new business.

STAFF REPORTS

Jennifer Kipper, NRCS District Conservationist, reported that she is spending most of her time on CRP and EQIP, and this will probably continue through September. September 30th is the end of the fiscal year and there are many deadlines that must be met. She has civil rights training upcoming at the Falls of the Ohio State Park. She hopes to schedule field visits in September and October for those who have expressed interest in NRCS programs. In addition, she has several HEL and wetland determinations, and status reviews to complete.

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

Matt Bell, Urban Specialist, presented a written report of his activities.

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

CONSERVATION PLANS FOR BOARD APPROVAL/SIGNATURES

None.

CORRESPONDENCE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

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

Melanie Davis
Secretary