SWCD Seeks Candidates for Supervisor Position

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District is looking for persons with an interest in natural resources management who would like to serve as a district official. Candidates are being sought for an elected seat on the district’s five-member board of supervisors. Term of office runs from January 2019 through January 2022.

Clark County SWCD is a legal subdivision of state government responsible for the protection, conservation and wise use of the soil, water and related natural resources within the county. Working cooperatively with federal, state and local agencies and organizations, the district brings educational, technical and financial assistance to bear on the conservation problems of the county.

Activities of the district are directed by the five supervisors, three who are elected by the local landusers and two appointed by the State Soil Conservation Board. Meeting on the first Thursday of each month, the supervisors plan and oversee the efforts aimed at fulfilling the district’s responsibilities, which include:

- Assessing natural resources management needs within the county;
- Developing and implementing policies and programs that address those assessed needs;
- Carrying out program initiative given to SWCDs by state and federal government (e.g., the review of farm conservation plans and construction site erosion/sediment control plans and the inspection of landfills for erosion control); and,
- Advising local government on natural resource management issues.

Candidates for Clark County SWCD’s elected-supervisor position must be of voting age, must be an occupier of a tract of land located in Clark County, and must maintain permanent residence within the county. For more information about Clark County SWCD, its programs, supervisor duties and qualifications, or to register as a candidate, visit the district office at 9608 Highway 62, Charlestown, IN, or call 812-256-2330, ext.3. Deadline to register as a candidate is November 30, 2018.

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Dates to Note

- 8/4/18—SWCD Monthly Board meeting
- 11/1/18—SWCD Monthly Board meeting
- 11/6/18—Election Day, SWCD office closed
- 11/12/18—Veterans Day, SWCD office closed
- 11/22-11/23/18—Thanksgiving Holiday, SWCD office closed
- 12/6/18—SWCD Monthly Board Meeting
- 12/24-25/18—Christmas Holiday, SWCD office closed

Older Clark/Floyd County Plat Books are available from the SWCD office:

- 2009 edition—$15
- 1998 edition—$5

Visit us Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. to purchase
Women’s Learning Circle Planned!

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is excited to announce plans to host its first Women4theLand Learning Circle! Recent surveys estimate women now own or co-own close to 50% of the farmland in the U.S. Circles are designed to serve those women who are interested in maintaining productive, profitable land, while conserving natural resources.

Learning Circles are women-only, peer-to-peer meetings in which every woman’s knowledge and expertise is of value. Female conservationists are available in the morning to facilitate discussions and provide information to help the landowners make informed decisions about soil and water conservation, hunting and habitat management, pollinator habitat, forest management, and more. Lunch, and an afternoon field tour of conservation practices, round out the day. There is no cost to participate.

Women interested in attending our Circle are encouraged to help us plan it! Below are dates we are considering for the meeting. Simply number them in order of your preference, cut out this article, and mail it to our office. We will select the most popular meeting time from the responses; formal invitations will be sent out as soon as we have those set. We would like to thank you in advance for completing the survey, and hope that we will see you in the “Circle”!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date Description</th>
<th>Preferred Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OCTOBER week of 10/22-26</td>
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<td>OCTOBER week of 10/29-11/2</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER week of 11/5-11/9</td>
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<td>NOVEMBER week of 11/12-11/16</td>
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<td>I’m too busy this fall. Next spring (February-March) would work better for me!</td>
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Soil Testing Service Offered

The Clark County SWCD is now offering soil testing services for homeowners seeking fertilizer recommendations for their lawn and gardens. Soil samples may be brought to the SWCD office at 9608 Highway 62, Charlestown.

Soil sample bags are available at no charge from the SWCD. Cost of a basic test is $22; a more extensive test is $32. Both tests provide suggested fertilizer recommendations for up to three crops (i.e. lawn, flowers, trees). It normally takes 4-5 working days for samples to be analyzed and recommendations returned.
New Addition to Natural Resources Education Area Proves Popular

Those who are regular attendees to the Clark County 4-H Fair, and to our Natural Resources Education Area, have witnessed many changes we’ve made in the area over the last two years. For the 2018 fair, we made another change by adding a walk-in butterfly house.

The butterfly house was constructed in the covered area under which we normally set up tables for guests and displays during the fair (those have been shifted to other areas). SWCD board supervisors, Luanne Stahly and Carolyn Clark, can be credited with getting the house in shape by fair opening. Both spent many hours selecting and potting plants, and creating a natural atmosphere in the house.

If you were unable to make it to this year’s fair, we invite you to visit us in 2019 to experience the butterfly house, and see what else we have planned!

State Nurseries Offering Tree Seedlings

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)-Division of Forestry, operates two nurseries within the state that grow and distribute to landowners high quality plant materials for conservation plantings. Conservation plantings include plantings for timber, wildlife, windbreaks, soil and water protection, reclamation, carbon sequestering, and education. Individual tree species are available as packets of 100 seedlings; packet mixes of seedlings (10 each) are also available according to planned use (i.e., wildlife, bottomland, etc.).

Orders are accepted October 1, 2018—May 1, 2019 (depending on inventory) for standard spring pickup. Order forms are available at the SWCD office; online orders may be placed beginning October 1st at www.INForestryX.com. More information on the nurseries and the seedling sale can be found at www.dnr.IN.gov/forestry.
SWCD Approaches 75th Anniversary

January 31, 2019, will mark the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). To commemorate this event, we will have many photos (can you find yourself in one?), and a slide show of the District’s history to present. We’ll also be serving helpings of anniversary cake after our catered meal. And, as with all our Annual Meetings, we will be electing one member of our Board of Supervisors, and distributing door prizes.

Our meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, January 31, 2019, in the Community Building on the Clark County 4-H Fairgrounds. Tickets will go on sale in early January. Please contact the SWCD office at 812-256-2330, ext. 3, for tickets or more information.

Incentive Funds Available for Conservation Practices

The Clark and Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) are promoting soil health on pasture/hay land, and improving water quality with their 2018 Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant project.

Through this project, producers can implement practices such as heavy use area protection (HUAP), access road, pipeline, watering tanks, forage and biomass planting, cover crop, permanent interior fence, and more. Cost-share rate on practices installed is 60% of actual cost; caps on individual practices have been set. Practices must be completed according to NRCS specs, and must be completed in the year that the participant’s application is approved for funding.

Applications will be taken continually, and evaluated and ranked on a timely basis throughout the project life or until all grant monies are expended. Producers in Clark County, should contact the Clark County SWCD office at 812-256-2330, ext. 3; in Jefferson County, the Jefferson County SWCD office at 812-265-7609.