

September 4, 2025 – Board Meeting Minutes

The Clark County Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors held their regular board meeting on Thursday, September 4th, 2025, at 8:30 a.m. Those present were Sam Hagest(Board Chair), Jerry Roach(Vice Chair), Loren Christman(Board Member), Peg Wright(Board Member), Tami Kruer(CCSWCD), Morgan Apple(CCSWCD), Drew McCutchen(NRCS-USDA), Laura Fribley(ISDA), and Jessica Hoehn(CCSI).

Minutes:

Sam asked for additions or corrections to the August minutes. Loren Christman moved to approve the minutes as written; Peg Wirght seconded, and the motion carried.

Financial Report:

Due to time constraints Tami asked that the financial report be tabled until the next meeting for approval, the past two months' bank statements were available to view. Pam moved to table the financial report; Loren seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Old Business –

Grant Updates:

EPA 319 application was not submitted due to technical issues and lack of Letters of Support. The board did approve before making the decision to not submit.

CWI – Conflict of Interest for Loren Christman. Jerry motioned to approve, Peg seconded, and the motion carried.

Farmers Helping Hellbenders CWI:

The district submitted a Letter of Support for the FHH CWI application with in-kind support.

GRC Land Trust CWI:

The district submitted a Letter of Support for the Land Trust's application with in-kind support.

Women4TheLand CWI:

The district submitted a Letter of Support for W4TL's application with in-kind support and to host 2 learning circles through the district within the next 2-3 years.

County Budget Hearing:

Jerry and Tami discussed what their experience at the County Budget Hearing was like. The council did not make any decisions during this hearing. It was agreed upon to extend invitations to the council for any events we host. Tami did express concern about the council inquiry about the MS4 for Clark County since there is no longer a dedicated employee to handle the whole MS4 process.

Training Opportunities:

SWCD SSE Fall Gathering:

All board member who were interested in attending and Morgan were signed up for the Fall Gathering at Cornucopia Farm in Scottsburg on September 10th. No costs are associated with this event.

Diversified Hay:

Morgan has signed up for an event in Borden, the event is sponsored by Partners in Food Farming and Diverse Corn Belt and has no associated cost.

Project Wet and Project Learning Tree:

Morgan has also signed up for an event in Paoli, the event is a joint event with Project Wet and Project Learning Tree. There are no costs associated with this event.

IDEA Fall Conference:

The IDEA Fall Conference is being held near Lake Monroe this year and Morgan is interested in attending. The cost for this is \$200 per person since we are not currently Active IDEA Members. Jerry motioned to approve the event cost of \$200, Loren seconded, the motion carried.

New Business:

Rental Equipment:

Sprayer:

The group discussed the idea behind renting a small tow behind trailer and the logistics with rental agreements. The group agreed to continue discussion on the rental.

Seed Thrower:

The group agreed to continue discussion on this rental.

Weed Wrench:

Morgan presented the option for a weed wrench for invasive species. The "Pullerbear" option presented run for \$140 plus shipping. Loren made the motion to purchase, Jerry seconded, the motion carried.

Butterfly Enclosure:

Morgan took down the old butterfly enclosure in the Exhibit Area.

Trail Cameras:

Morgan installed the 4 small trail cameras we had ordered around the Exhibit Area to monitor animals that are utilizing that area.

Pole Barn:

Morgan has been working on cleaning out the Exhibit Pole Building and is around halfway through it. The hope is to make it an efficient space we can use for storage and other projects.

Supply Orders:

Tami and Morgan have been ordering office supplies.

Fair Exhibitors:

Morgan spoke about some of the potential booths for the 2026 fair, including the Hardy Lake Raptor Center, Clark State Forest, Pheasants/Quail Forever, etc.

Woodland Steward Request:

Tami presented the Woodland Steward request of financial support for the Clark County mailing list. They asked the board to consider a contribution of \$250 towards the printing costs. Jerry made the motion to contribute the \$250 to the Indiana Woodland Steward with the caveat that we receive the mailing list to assist in updating it, Loren seconded, the motion carried.

Marvin Wright Scholarship:

Tami spoke about the current amount available for the scholarship, it is \$2,863.86 since it was not used in 2025. Peg motioned to increase the 2026 scholarship amount to \$2,800, Loren seconded, the motion carried.

Planned Events:

Morgan spoke about her planned hike on September 15th. It is a beginner's invasive ID hike.

New Branding, Brochures, Newsletter, and Website:

Morgan presented the new branding materials, the board members present agreed on the first logo, we want a full board approval on the logo before moving forward. The new Exhibit Area brochure was shown to the group. A draft version of a Fall newsletter was shown; we would have to move fast to get it out on time. Morgan also went through the updated website. Morgan asked for a board motion to pay for the new web host. Jerry motioned that we pay \$12 a month for the Weebly host, Loren seconded, the motion carried.

Annual Meeting:

The board discussed options for the Annual Meeting. Morgan will be putting together quotes for food options.

Speakers:

Jessica Hoehn – CCSI:

Jessica belongs to the Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative. She came to this meeting to promote, to help the board promote improving soil health on crop land. Jessica has offered to help with promoting and developing field days.

Laura Fribley – ISDA:

Laura gave a few updates for elections and announced the Clean Water Indiana staff member.

Staff Reports

Drew McCutchan presented an oral report.

Tami Kruer presented an oral report

Morgan Apple presented an oral report.

Mike Johnson was not present for a report.

Lynn Miller was not present for a report.

With no further business, Sam adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Morgan Apple