

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 4th, 2024, 8:00 am USDA Service Center Conference Room

In Attendance: Dave Stanley, John Frey, Joyce Grimble, Jordan Gillenwater, Raoul Moore, David Hadley, Aron Rhoads, Kenny Cain, Michael Hill, Helen Hudson, Kristen Latzke, Sam Lovold

Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:02am.

Partnerships

Dave Stanley- Dave has been working on new EQIP approvals and preexisting contracts. 3 new CRP requests from FSA that have been sent out to the technician team. Dave has been making EQIP payments to cover crop contracts.

Helen- April 16th at 6pm The League of Women Voters will have a speaking event for early child development and reading at Crawfordsville High School commons. There will be a panel of speakers from the county. Legislative breakfast will be on Saturday 13th at Fusion 54

Joyce- County Council is working on funding for the courthouse. Next week is the opening of the early learning center for county kids, MCCF has been instrumental in that project

Kenny- Nothing new at SSCB, things are looking good for CWI.

Kristen- Someone reached out to Kristen about STAR, Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources, which ranks ag conservation on a star level for individual fields. Update on Callery pear removal downtown. 3 downtown trees were removed last year, planting new trees has proven to be difficult due to utility lines. There are 3 more on city property that can potentially be removed this year. Kristen spoke with Danielle about renewing our CRP contribution agreement. Our current contract does not run out until 2025 but NRCS wants to get the ball rolling. Will start that in fall. Kristen has submitted an abstract to speak at January's annual conference about starting a watershed project from scratch.

Consent Agenda- Aron moved to accept March minutes and Jordan seconded to approve. Raoul moved to approve Treasurer's report as presented and Aron seconded motion to approve. Motion approved.

Old Business

RCPP and/or 319 updates- No movement on RCPP. Seth Harden has spoken with NRCS folks and no updates for that. We are in a holding pattern for RCPP currently. 319 is still an available option for us. NOI is due June 3rd and the application is due early September. Sara Peel has been running ACPF to analyze areas of concern in Brown-Wonder Sugar Creek watershed as part of RCPP in the meantime.

Plant Sale- Plant sale goes live today. Discussed with the board potential options for any potential leftover stock. We can potentially donate to Parks if we have a small number of plants. Encouraged to push out to buyers if we have low remaining stock. We can also donate any small amount of remaining stock to Parks and Recreation or potentially the library. Sam will reach out to the library board about potential plan for landscaping natives around library building and replacing burning bushes around buildings. Does not have to go in tandem with plant sale, Sam will learn more from library.

New Business

Terebinth Group funding request- New building owners for our office have reached out to Kristen with a request for recommendations on landscaping for the building as well as funding for new plants. In the past we have done a lot for removal of invasives on the office property. Raoul moves to table this discussion until next month, Aron seconded. Motion passed.

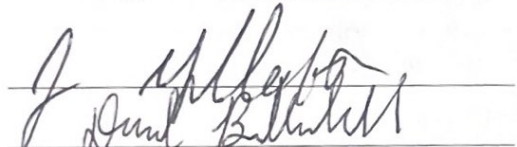
Resilient Indiana Program- new program from IASWCD. This program is focused on technical assistance to support districts. There will be regional staff members throughout the state that can assist county SWCD's with technical work. They have sent us a survey to determine the needs for districts and available office space for a technician. Kristen will fill out this survey and take any additional recommendations from the board for it.

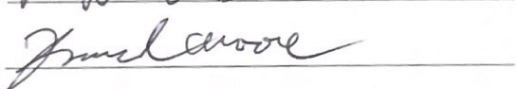
LEAP Updates/district statement- John gave us an update on the county's stance on LEAP. The county's disappointed in the lack of foresight or inclusion of local county officials and residents in the development of the LEAP project. They have reflected this in the resolution they have previously passed. Kenny asked the board to learn more about the position of the IFA and their involvement in LEAP. He also encouraged us to use this issue as an opportunity to educate folks about our water resources. Will potentially reach out to county attorney about developing a statement on LEAP and water resources. The board will consider more as the LEAP issue develops further.

SBOA audit- Routine audit occurred last week. Primarily looked at claims. There will be an exit debriefing that will be scheduled next week. Raoul and Jordan will need to be in attendance for that meeting.

Jordan motioned to adjourn meeting; Aron seconded, Meeting Adjourned at 9:31 am

Minutes approved 5-2, 2024





Submitted by Kristen Latzke