

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 6th, 2024, 8:00 am
USDA Service Center Conference Room

In attendance: Raoul Moore, Joyce Grimble, Marc Roberts, Daniel Bullerdick, Jordan Gillenwater, Dave Stanley, Kristen Latzke, Sam Lovold, Kenny Cain (via call), Michael Hill, Tricia Herr, Aron Rhoades.

Jordan opened the meeting at 8:01 am.

Partnership reports

Kenny- Not a lot of SSB updates, guidance on CWI grants is going well. Looking forward to August regional meetings around the state.

Joyce- Salary study is supposed to come back in July. They have been working really hard with judicial partners. Kristen will draft a letter to the County Council and Commissioners for 319 grant support, mainly promotion.

Dave- Andrew Brown the District Conservationist of Fountain County has moved to Vermillion County. Dave is now acting DC for Fountain County in addition to his duties here. He will be spending time in Fountain County on Tuesdays. Dave has 135 re-ups for CRP in Montgomery County this year from FSA in addition to 93 he will be working on in Fountain. 5 more EQIP applications have been accepted in the county. 2 EQIPs are still pending approval. EQIP is continuous and those who are not selected roll over to the next year.

Kristen- Resilient Indiana Technical Assistance program (RITA) is a new branch of the IASWCD. Their goal is to provide technical assistance to the districts of Indiana. Our RITA is Hannah Garriot, she previously worked as a part time staff member in Vermillion and Parke's SWCDs. A press release was released yesterday with additional information on the staff members and their regions. The plan is these technicians will rotate throughout their regions, we will expect to see her at least every week and a half. She will aim to attend a board meeting quarterly where she will provide updates on the RITA program. She will come here next Monday to get to know the office and learn about the district from Kristen, Dave, and Sam. Our goal is to have her help with site visits for either of our programs or future grant project site visits. More to come.

Farmer float trip is coming up in a few weeks on June 25th. Kristen's abstract for a presentation at IASWCD conference was approved.

Tricia- Invasive species class has started for the month of June on Tuesday evenings, CISMA Hike is scheduled for June 20th. 4H enrollment numbers have remained around the same, less livestock around the fair than in the past. Master Gardener's will have a native plant sale on Saturday June 8th. Sam will have a district table at the event.

Sam- Community Grower's Bucket Brigade project is nearly complete. Construction of the garden buckets took place last night; Sam will distribute those buckets to the food banks of the county this afternoon.

Consent agenda: Aron moved to approve; Marc 2nd to approve consent agenda.

Treasurer's Report: Kristen presented May report, expenses from Community Growers project and plant sale. ACPF bill for the RCPP project. Marc moved to file, Daniel 2nd, approved to file financial report.

Old Business

RCPP and 319 Updates- Fountain County has applied for a watershed management grant for the Big Shawnee watershed. This watershed contains 230 acres of Montgomery County. Kristen has drafted a letter of support for this grant that will have us giving help in the form of water testing and other in-kind support. Raoul moved to approve, Marc 2nd, motion approved to submit letter of support.

Kristen met with Sara Peel and Seth Harden on the Montgomery County 319 project. Kristen has been working hard on gathering letters of support. They have been working hard on editing the application and plan to have a draft available for comment by next meeting.

Seth was unable to attend this morning so Kristen will review his RCPP presentation instead. We had an SWCD centric meeting for the RCPP project here in Crawfordsville a few weeks ago. Seth more recently had a meeting with NRCS people over Zoom. The RCPP project will comprise 4 million acres over Indiana and Illinois. The total ask to NRCS for the project is 15 million, with 11.25 million being for cost share for primarily edge of field practices. NRCS and TNC will utilize parts of it for staffing for the project, with some additional funds for contractors to help with designs and work bottlenecks. While edge of field is the priority there will be some in-field practices as well such as waterways. TNC is using many different methods of measurements for the outcome of this project. TNC Edge of Field Roadmap is a good resource to better understand the practices this project will bring. There will be measurements in environmental changes, economic, and social changes throughout the project. Kristen presented the draft letter of support and described the various ways in which we will plan to provide match for the RCPP project. Kristen broke down the match by project management, education and outreach, and advertisement through the things we are regularly doing. Match was presented as a range so Kristen could calculate the salary/benefit match numbers. Raoul moved to approve letter of support to TNC with the range of total match \$67,625-\$84,500, Marc 2nd. Motion approved.

Crawfordsville Main Street invasive project- Sue Lucas provided an update on the downtown callery pear removal. 2 additional trees were removed in addition to the original 3. Not all funds we provided were used in this past phase of the project. Raoul moved to roll over left over funding into next phase of project, Marc 2nd motion.

SBOA Audit- Exit meeting will occur today at 10 am to go over the audit report. The rates have increased from in the past, and the rates they are charging are not the standard Soil and Water

rates. More to come after the conclusion of this exit meeting. Other districts have had similar experiences and there is more investigation going on at the state level as to why the improper rate is being applied across the board.

New Business

4H Soil and Water award sponsor- up to \$30 for award plaque, Raoul moved to approve, Marc 2nd. Motion approved.

County Budget for 2025- There was a need to add in a line for overtime for the program coordinator position, Raoul will attend the next budget hearing to assist with the budget requests. Marc moved to approve a 3.4% increase for the next budget. Jordan 2nd. Motion approved.

Jordan adjourned the meeting at 9:55 am.

Minutes approved July 15, 2024

Marc Pic

Paul B. Kulis

Raoul Moor

Jordan Ellends

Submitted by Kristen Latzke