

## **Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Thursday, March 7th, 2024, 8:00 am**

### **USDA Service Center Conference Room**

In Attendance: Dave Stanley, Daniel Bullerdick, Jordan Gillenwater, Raoul Moore, Marc Roberts, Kenny Cain, Michael Hill, Helen Hudson, Seth Harden, Tricia Herr, Kristen Latzke, Sam Lovold

Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:07am.

#### **Partnerships**

Dave Stanley- EQIP program has gone through the first round of applications. Out of 9 applications 5 were accepted with 1 cancelling. At this stage funding is still coming through to this program so the outlook is good for folks interested in applying.

Tricia- Hosting a drone class for anyone interested in becoming a professional drone pilot. Class for better understanding of FAA regulations and drone usage for ag or personal usage. 4H consignment auction is this weekend. June and August invasive species management class. Heard about carbon sequestration project potentially around Linden. People will begin being contacted from these companies around Linden. Be on the lookout for questions from people about this project.

Helen- 3-part series on SWCD has started. Last week Dave spoke and was well received. Kristen and Sam will speak in the following couple of months. 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of April and May.

Kenny- Not too much to report from SSCB. They are meeting next week to update their 5-year business plan.

Raoul- Sycamore RC&D will either dissolve and pass on their Vigo County assets to Wabash Land Conservancy or try to revive itself.

Adam Beck- 1 week left to complete ARC/PLC program, producers filtering in for that. General CRP has opened up. Continuous CRP, which is filter strips and waterways that people can generally sign up for. General is where your proposed practice is ranked against all other applications in the country. Less incentive payments for General as opposed to continuous. We as Indiana and Montgomery County do not typically see many enrollments in general CRP. The last cycle 2 were approved and 1 carried on with the contract. Adam shared a map of state priority areas and Montgomery County was not one of them. FSA hired a new program technician from the rural development office to fill the position vacated back in November. They have also hired a full-time temporary position person who will start in May. Heather has been working at the office for a full year now and has cut the amount of mid contract management needs in the county from 300 to 20.

Kristen- Newspaper published the soil and water insert and wrote articles about our annual meeting and speaking series.

Consent Agenda- Marc moved to accept Secretary and Treasurer's report and Raoul seconded motion to approve. Motion approved.

**Old Business**

Annual Meeting Feedback- All thought the meeting was a success. The food and speaker were well received. Kenny suggested Lenny Farlee as a potential speaker for next year's annual meeting.

RCPP and 319- The middle of March is when Seth expects RCPP will get moving again and we will be able to move forward with our application. TNC will run an ACPF model on the watershed and will use that to propose sites in the watershed that need conservation practices installed. This will allow them to calculate how much money the project will need. Seth has talked to Bob Barr about doing a geomorphology study in the watershed. A geomorphology study would help ID where hotspots of erosion are occurring both naturally and from man-made sources. It would be an expensive study, but it can potentially be done in phases of the RCPP grant to spread the costs. Seth has a list of partners needed for the RCPP and will reach out to our district to help in contacting those needed partners.

**New Business**

Board officers- Jordan moves to rollover positions from last year. Marc seconded motion. Motion approved.



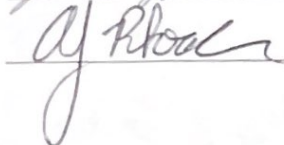
Updated county job descriptions- Kristen presented county job descriptions with revisions. Board discussed further edits to the job descriptions and what requirements they would like to have for the staff positions. Board will sign approval of revisions and Kristen will turn back in the study to the county.

CWI funds for district operations- CWI funds should be in our account. Kristen submitted a capacity report to the state which reports on the uses of the CWI funds. The board will consider projects or areas we can put these funds towards. There was much discussion over using CWI funds towards the RCPP grant. Marc motioned to contact Sara Peel and pay for an ACPF with TNC to provide technical parameters and repay half. Raoul seconded motion. Motion approved.

Plant Sale 2024- Presale will begin April 4<sup>th</sup> and close April 24<sup>th</sup> with the pickup date May 4<sup>th</sup> at the 4H fairgrounds in conjunction with Master Gardener's plant sale. Jordan motioned to approve \$2,248 for purchases towards the plant sale. Raoul seconded. Motion approved. Marc motioned to mark up forbs to \$7.50 and shrubs to \$20. Jordan seconded, motion approved.

Raoul motioned to adjourn meeting; Daniel seconded, Meeting Adjourned at 10:12 am

Minutes approved 4/4/24, 2024

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Submitted by Kristen Latzke