

Montgomery County SWCD Board Meeting Minutes Thursday, November 2nd, 2023, 8:00 am USDA Service Center Conference Room

In Attendance: Kristen Latzke, Sam Lovold, Joyce Grimble, Kenny Cain, Daniel Bullerdick, Jordan Gillenwater, Dave Stanley, Raoul Moore, Helen Hudson, Tricia Herr

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

Partnerships

Dave Stanley- Adam is unable to attend this morning. Eva Silver retired this past Tuesday. She has been replaced by Kelsey Carpenter. NRCS had a rollout meeting this week for next years programs. EQIP and EQIP-IRA, CSP and CSP with IRA fundings. 14 applications for EQIP funding next year. First round of applications cuts of on December 8th. Will need to get out and check farms and plan how to get these practices in. Money is available for these programs and especially so for projects that meet a large environmental concern. Roughly 120 folks have expressed an interest in putting in new CRP practices but things are in a holding pattern until a new Farm Bill comes in. Sam and Kristen have been checking 2025 CRPs to see if those practices need stuff done. Roughly half of those practices have been checked. Dave has been at this office for 29 years last Tuesday. One hurdle with CSP is a lot of those properties are not on traditional ag land so the FSA does not have those acreages mapped out. Lot of drawing to be done.

Kenny- SSB reviewed CWI grants committees recommendations to approve grants submitted. It is a large task to review these grants. 49 applications totaling over 4.5 million dollars in requests with only 2 million available to give out as grants. Kenny is built backwards; his nose runs and his feet smell. Through a comprehensive scoring method the members score and rank applications. These scores are public and will be sent out later for anyone interested in reviewing.

Joyce Grimble- county has set the budget. It is currently now at the state level for approval. SWCD budget is fully funded.

Tricia Herr- 4H enrollment is open. Extension is helping with rollout of broadband. Speed tests are being done to help determine areas of need. Tricia will bring flyers so folks can do scans for speed tests. CCSI workshop will be held in February. Virtual cattle program. Annie's project to help educate folks about tax times. Demo Garden will be built West of the Extension Office. Will be built in stages. November 13th at 9 am at the 4H building will be a PARP training, Private Applicator Recertification Program. For any folks who have past certification in pesticide application.

Helen Hudson- Community Growers has had a great summer. LWV has been active. LWV will be having a meeting of their observer corp at YSB November 15th with speaker Ken Jones from Greater Lafayette LWV. On September 30th there was a meeting of State Presidents of LWVs here in Montgomery County of 50-75 different folks from around the state.

Raoul- Sycamore Trails Forestry is seeking to get active again since COVID. ~~HWA~~ ^{IFWA} is running things. The group is comprised of woodland owners and talk about forestry and things that they are doing on their land to manage trees.

Kristen- ISDA is doing a statewide soil sampling program. It is a first come first serve program that runs until April 16th. A lot of deadlines are coming up on the ISDA side. IDEA conference at French Lick went very well at the beginning of October. We are cohosting a women4theland learning circle next week with

Tippecanoe County. The event is sold out and the theme is landscaping for wildlife. The current 319 grant finishes up on the 17th of November. Only a few more boxes to be checked. Watershed management plan has been approved by the EPA and any comments or corrections were minimal. Executive summary of this plan will be added to the beginning of the plan to help folks not as familiar with conservation to understand. We did not get the implantation funds 319 grant. 24 applications were received and 12 were funded. A combined request for 6.5 million but there were only funds for 2.6 million for all the projects. Kristen has requested a list of those who were funded as well as for any additional comments on why our application was not funded. Kristen will continue to sleuth.

LARE grant will be finishing up soon. The Frey Project has been completed and paid for. Just waiting for pollinator plot at Mace to be put it so last of funds will be used.

Consent Agenda- Raoul moved to approve with one correction (one type, FFA should read FSA), Daniel 2nd. Motion approved.

October Financial Report. Daniel moved to approve. Raoul 2nd. Motion approved.

Old Business

Election Committee- Jordan, Mark, and Kenny will be on the committee.

Appointment recommendation submission- Aron has been recommended for another 3 years

District Showcase Award- We are preparing a display for IASWCD conference with posters about all the programs that the program coordinator does. Wednesday the 29th will be our district showcase presentation at Fusion 54 on the 3rd floor from 1-3. We will have speakers from the board and folks from our programs talk on the impact of the programs administered through the district. Kristen will say a few words to close off the presentation and Amy Work will have a few closing statements since they put on the District Showcase program.

New Business

IASWCD Annual Conference-Conference is coming up, Jordan will be our district delegate. There are early bird rates to go and stay. Will be held the 8th and 9th of January. This would be the year to go since we are being recognized for district showcase. Jordan will sign up. On the 9th there will be a legislative breakfast. Folks will go across to the capitol and speak with legislators and talk about conservation concerns. The national No-till conference will follow the IASWCD conference from the 9th-12th. Raoul motioned to approve payment of conference registration and hotel for SWCD Staff, supervisors, and associate supervisors interested in going. Daniel 2nd. Motion approved.

Annual Meeting 2024- Need to start thinking about speakers and who might be conservationist of the year. Need a date sooner than later so we can start booking things. Masonic Temple as a potential site, Kenny says years ago we had a meeting there. Will look for a date in the 1st week of March. Possibly in the middle of the week. Bring ideas for speakers and conservationist of the year award recipients to the next meeting.

Plant Sale for 2024- Daniel motioned to approve purchase of renewed nursery dealer license. Raoul 2nd. Motion approved. May or may not be collaborating with Master Gardeners.

More bills (Microsoft 365 + Farm Bureau Dues + Urban Soil Health Program Support + Zoom subscription) = ~\$5,700 Raoul moved to approve, Jordan 2nd. Motion approved.

Jordan motioned to adjourn meeting; Meeting Adjourned at 9:36am

Minutes approved DEC 11, 2023

Paul Moore

J. Rhoads

Jordan Miller

Submitted by Kristen Latzke