MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
7/14/26
USDA

PRESENT John F, Steve, Rich, John D, Katie, Penny Titus, Dave Davis, Derek, Bruce, Larry, Phil, Courtney

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 8:02am by John F

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Motion By: Rich

Seconded By: Phil

Motion Carried

3. **STAFF & PARTNER REPORTS**

Staff/Office Update

Katie gave her update and requested to be off on August 5th for 4H competition. Katie is going to reach out to Bri in Newton County to ask questions about the Trust IN Fund.

NRCS Update

Derek mentioned that there were more CSP funds released but we didn't have any get funded this year when in past years we would have 3-4.

ISDA Update

Geneva was not present. Courtney was present and had created a printout for the board to see the transect from the previous year compared to the current year.

Extension Update

Marty was not present

RC&D Update

Katie talked to the board about the next event, Rafting. The RC&D Annual Meeting is September 22 at 6pm in Winamac. They are having Warsaw Envirothon as the speakers. The group was asked about helping with the State Envirothon so that it can continue. The Education group has sent out volunteers needed for the rafting in September.

Other

Penny Titus gave an update about the House working on the reconciliation and votes for the Bill are close.

Dave gave an update on Renewable projects moving forward and there will be a Town Hall meeting about the data centers tonight. They are talking about starting on battery storage centers in summer of 2027.

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

Business Plan

The group had a meeting on July 1st to go over the business plan to get agreement on the updated plan. The board talked about local working groups also being a part of the partners group we use to get guidance for our goals. A formal acceptance is needed to accept and approve the business plan as a working document. Katie is going to add the core values onto the agenda for our monthly meetings from here on out. Rich went over what the core values are with the partners that were at the meeting to keep them up to speed with what we are doing and planning here on out.

Motion: Motion to accept and approve the business plan as an active document.

Motion by: Rich

Seconded by: John D.

Motion Carried

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

IDEA Membership

Katie presented to the board the paperwork for us to get our IDEA membership renewed. The fee for membership is $50.00; Katie will need approval and motion to accept the dollar amount.

Motion: To accept and pay the $50.00 to renew our IDEA Membership.

Motioned By: Rich

Seconded By: Steve

IDEA Conference

Katie brought up to the board, said the IDEA Conference is coming up in October from the 7th to the 9th. Katie would leave half day on the 7th to get to Pokagon State Park. She shared with the board the breakout sessions that she is planning on attending. The first session is Admin, how to run a better Board Meeting, the second one is Education, how to teach soils, and the third one is Tech, Invasive management within pollinator plantings. There is also a tour offered and she is going to attend the Douglas Woods Hike with TNC. The cost of the conference is $150.00 and the cost of the hotel per night is around $80.00, Katie will be staying for 2 nights. The board talked about the conference, and all agreed they would need to make a motion to approve attendance.

Motion: To approve sending Katie to the conference paying for the conference and paying for the hotel stay for the 2 nights.
Motion by: Rich
Seconded by Steve
Motion Carried

RCPP

Seth had sent out a survey asking if SWCD's who were interested in 2024 are still interested in being part of it now. We accepted and sent back we are still interested in the RCPP. Having this in our county will help NRCS become a priority for getting applications accepted.

Bills

Bills that were presented in Membership renewal were accepted earlier.

6. **OTHER**

Conservation Plot

The plot out behind the office needs some care and updating of mulch. Katie requested some funds be set aside to cover maintenance of the gardens. The board agreed to add some funds for maintenance of the plots/gardens. A motion was needed to accept and assign a dollar amount. Katie is going to create a spreadsheet to keep track of the funds being used and will give an update every month to keep the board informed of what is being spent and on what items.

Motion: To set funds aside for the conservation/garden plot of $500.00.
Motion by: Steve
Seconded by: Phil
Motion Passed

Local Working Group

Katie is going to get the local working group added into the agenda.

Performance Review

The Board is going to hold an Executive session on August 4th at the USDA Center to go over Katie's performance for the year. Katie is going to let the FSA office know they will be needing to use the conference room for that day.

7. **ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:33am.

Next meeting will be held on:

August 11th at 8am

USDA Center