



MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

8/11/26

USDA

Board Members

John Fielding

Chairman

Rich Hines

Vice Chairman

John Demerly

Supervisor

Steve Cosgray

Supervisor

Phil Huber

Supervisor

Larry Kilmer

Associate Supervisor

Bruce Reynolds

Associate Supervisor

Staff

Katie Snowberger

District Administrator

PRESENT John F, Steve, Rich, John D, Katie, Penny Titus, Derek, Larry, Phil, Marty Huesman, Grace Adams

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 am by John F

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion By: Steve

Seconded By: Rich

Motion Carried

3. STAFF & PARTNER REPORTS

Staff/Office Update

Katie gave an update from the previous month. She had less education outreach in the past month but hopes with school coming back into session she will gain some more outreach opportunities. There will be a few days she is out for training and appointments.

NRCS Update

Derek let the board know he has 1 preapproved CSP contract. It will be submitted at the end of August. He is also working on CRP re-enroll which is about halfway completed.

ISDA Update

Geneva was not present, but DSS notes were submitted to the board.

Extension Update

Marty was present and let the board know that Purdue Extension has made some adjustments to how they will run. He is now going to be over region 1 for the state. He will be specializing in Field Crops for his area.

RC&D Update

Katie talked to the board about the next event, Rafting. There is going to be a pre-float on August 27th at the Tippecanoe River State Park. To see how the water levels are and if there are any log jams. After the pre-float there will be a committee meeting in Winamac at 11am to finalize the plans and last-minute discussions. John Fielding mentioned that the RC&D Annual Meeting is September 22nd at 6pm at One Eyed Jacks in Winamac. The speaker for the meeting will be the Warsaw High School Envirothon team who won regionals, went onto win state and were able to attend Nationals.

Other

Penny Titus gave an update about how the Farm Bill failed and that it is encouraged to reach out to our local Senators.

Grace, our regions RITA tech gave an update on water sampling projects she has been doing for other counties. She is planning on attending the Watershed Leadership Academy next year.

4. OLD BUSINESS

Budget Hearing

Katie reminded the board of the hearing is August 19th at 11:15am at the County Court House. She let the board know that she has set aside booklets from the annual meeting to hand out to the council so they can see and review activities our department has accomplished. She also printed off the finalized budget proposal that will be presented to the council during our meeting. The budget has all the updated information for them to look over and prepare for the conversation the council will ask for. John Fielding is planning on meeting Katie that morning to go over everything and help prepare.

Conservation Plot Funds

Katie let the board know that she is planning on telling the board each month when funds have been spent for the plot gardens behind the office. For the past month, \$36.00 of the \$500.00 budget were spent on 3 signs from Unique Graphics. She is planning on getting post to attach the signs too for display. She will probably be getting 6 c post.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Annual Meeting Planning

The board began discussing locations for the meeting March 9th, 2027, with the makeup date of March 10th, 2027. The board is still planning on moving around the county for our meetings to accommodate everyone in the county who attends. Lori's in Wolcott, the Baptist Church in Monon, and Camp Tecumseh outside Brookston. The caterers depending on the location could be Lori's, Oliver's and Harold's. The speaker is the main one we wanted to get figured out because we must make sure the speaker is available for our dates. Katie presented the idea of using a geologist for our speaker. The last time we had a geologist as a speaker was with Cass County and it was a great talk and well accepted. Penny was able to get a name for Katie of whom they had used, Ginger Davis. Katie is going to reach out to Leah at Cass County for the contact number. Once Katie has the speaker figured out and can confirm the date she will start to reach out to locations to see what their availability is.

Appointing Election Committee

The board needed to select an election committee for the annual meeting in 2027. The Committee Chair became Steve Cosgray and he asked if Derek Carty with NRCS be part of the committee. He agreed and Steve said he would ask Allison Clark after the meeting to see if she would be willing to be the other member of the committee.

Letter of Support Benton Co

Leslie from Benton Co had sent over requesting support for the Big Pine Creek Watershed. The board agreed to keep the support going for the Big Pine Creek at the current support amount. Katie is going to update the letter and send it over to Leslie.

Motion: To accept letter of support to Benton Count Big Pine Creek Watershed.

Motioned By: John D

2nd By: Phil

Carried

RCPP

Seth had sent out an email requesting updated letters of support for the Wabash Watershed RCPP they are applying for. Katie is going to update the salary portion of the letter and send it over to Seth.

Motion: To update the letter of support for the Wabash Watershed and accept being part of the Wabash Watershed.

Motioned By: Rich

2nd By: Steve

Carried

DJ Case

Katie told the board about DJ Case having a session in Lafayette at the Tippecanoe Extension office on August 28th. Rich said he would attend with Katie to the meeting; Katie is going to see if other locations have had a meeting with them to see what was talked about. So, they can have questions ready to talk to them about. Leah from Cass County had a meeting with DJ Case already so Katie is going to reach out to them to ask how it went.

6. OTHER

Watershed Leadership Academy

The WLA opened their enrollment for their class. The applications are due on October 16th; the cost of the class is \$1,500.00. We could get the price down to \$1,000.00 but if Katie qualified, she could get the price down to \$500.00 through a scholarship. She would have to attend 2 overnight in person sessions and there are also online classes. Lodging and food

for those times away are covered under the admission price. Katie is going to send in her application.

Motion: To have Katie apply/attend the Watershed Leadership Academy.

Motioned By: Rich

2nd By: John D

Carried

Rich as mentioned that since Katie is planning on attending the WLA, it would be beneficial for Sara Peel to come by before she attends to give a talk about what SWCD is to expect on working on a Watershed Management Plan. The board was wanting to figure out a good time to set up a meeting because Katie is going to attend the class starting in January. With harvest coming up most of the board will be busy with harvesting their crops. Katie mentioned that we could have the meeting in December since that might be a slower time for us on the items on our agenda. Katie is going to reach out to Sara and see if she would be able to make time to come over to talk to everyone.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20am.

Next meeting will be held on:

September 1st at 8am

USDA Center