



MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

12/10/2024
USDA Office

Board Members

Larry Kilmer

Chairman

John Fielding

Vice Chairman

John Demerly

Supervisor

Steve Cosgray

Supervisor

Rich Hines

Supervisor

Bruce Reynolds

Associate Supervisor

Staff

Katie Snowberger

District Administrator

PRESENT Larry, Steve, John D, Bruce, Marty, Rich, John F, Katie

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:02am by Larry K

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion By: Steve C

Seconded By: John F

Motion Carried

3. STAFF & PARTNER REPORTS

Staff/Office Update

Katie discussed what has been going on for the month in the office.

FSA Office Update

Colette let the board know that December 20th is her last day/retirement party

NRCS Update

Derek and Cayci were not able to attend the meeting but Derek submitted his update

ISDA Update

Geneva submitted her update but wasn't able to attend the meeting

Extension Update

Marty wanted to discuss working more with soil and water on more project and also to see if we can try to get some information packets for the ag day. Also wanted to know if Katie would be able to see about getting the erosion table by checking with Carrol County SWCD.

RC&D Update

John F said that they had 2 meetings since we last talked. Brad Clayton the current President is planning on stepping down and are working on setting up the next person. Talk of MaryLou. The grant was sent out for us to see and that will be due Jan 31st so if we have anything we are wanting to fund we will have to work on that quickly to get it in by the submission date.

Other Partners

4. OLD BUSINESS

Annual Meeting

Talked about adding a Trivia to the meeting to get an entertainment factor into the meeting.

Since we know that most people lose interest if things are not different than other years.

Work on getting the award for the Pence Revington set up and to get ahold of her to let her know would like her to attend, need to talk to Tom Walker to see what size of wood he will need to get the design cnc'd on to it. Steve said that he has a piece of wood that he set aside but it is larger than they will need but he can get a smaller piece.

It was discussed about the Outdoor Grant Recipients and who we have that would have received money this year. Instead of having them come in. Katie is going to reach out and see if they can send photos and a short paragraph written to talk about what was done with the grant.

Tree City

Katie had some questions for Rich about the MOU with the City. Wasn't sure the full involvement that was expected because the MOU mentioned assisting the City with helping with Tree City. Rich said that it was to be ran out of the office of Soil and Water and wanted Katie to lead the program and make sure it is ready for Arbor Day.

IASWCD:

For the Conference John F is the delegate and the second delegate if John isn't able to attend will be Rich. The meeting that would be attending is on Tuesday Morning. John brought forward some meeting information that will be presented and voted on at the IASWCD Conference. John F is requesting that the board read over the items for discussion and let him know if they have anything that they would like brought up for the voting.

Business Plan

Katie is starting to redo the plan and adjust the plan to fit more into what the SWCD is currently working towards.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Donations

We have been getting mailings from groups about getting donations. The board discussed which ones we needed to try to focus on as a priority to donate to Indiana Woodland Stewards and The

Nature Conservancy. Plan to donate to Indiana Woodland and table the donation to The Nature Conservancy.

Motion: To send a donation to the Indiana Woodland Steward for the amount of \$100.000

Motion By: Rich H

Seconded By: John F

Motion Carried

Wabash Watershed

Larry highlighted some key points in the meeting that took place in Benton County. The main part of this movement for the watershed might start in 2026. This will include 20 counties and about \$16million dollars to be split between counties and 5 engineers. The main thought is that this will be patterned after the Big Pine but that isn't for sure yet, a lot of unanswered questions since this isn't being rolled out yet. Larry is wanting to have another meeting with Seth and invite the board to the meeting also so they can hear more about what this means for our County. Larry or Katie will be reaching out to him to see about setting something up.

2025 Board Meeting Dates

Katie has written up the dates for the next year. There only one that was in question was the one for November 4th or 18th as the normal day that would be used is Veteran's Day and the office is closed. The date picked for November is the 18th.

OTHER

Bank Card

Larry brought up about how him and Katie had been working on getting a business credit card through the bank, but there had been some issues that came with it. It was mentioned that even if we froze the card and didn't use it all the time any pending charges would go through as soon as the card was unfrozen. So, the card wouldn't be protected from fraud even though the bank does cover fraud charges. It was brought up about just going with a debit card from the bank and having a credit limit set on it some that only that can be used in one day.

Motion: To request a bank debit card from the Bank of Wolcott from our checking account with a \$500.00 usage amount.

Motion By: Steve C

Seconded By: Rich H

Motion Carried

2025 Contingency Plan

With the new farm bill coming up Dec 20th. It was brought to Katies attention that she will need to get the plan updated and resigned since the old one was for Katelyn.

Motion: To accept the plan as written with the updates added

Motioned By: John D

Seconded By: Steve C

Motion Carried

Battery Storage Facility

Rich wanted to discuss the storage facilities that are being talked about in Reynolds, Springboro, Buffalo. He has been doing research on this since one was going to be placed in the field across from his place. The main issues that he sees right now is that they are planning on using prime farmland for this battery storage. The other part he has noticed is that the community does not have the information that they should to know what this means for the area. There has been meeting for this but it was not productive on getting questions answered to the extent that everyone walked away knowing what was to come. Such as what is the impact this will have on the environment (drinking water and farm ground). He was able to have them set up another meeting for the community 12/10/2024 at 530-7pm at Camp Tecumseh.

6. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45am.

Next meeting will be held on:

Jan 14th 2025

Time: 8:00am

USDA Office