



MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

9/1/26

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, Bruce, Steve, Rich, John D, Katie, Derek, Larry, Phil, Geneva

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:05 am by John F

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND FINANCIAL REPORTS

Motion By: Rich

Seconded By: Steve

Motion Carried

3. STAFF & PARTNER REPORTS

Staff/Office Update

Katie gave an update from the previous month. Katie is planning a lesson for a high school earth space class in October. There will be a few days she is out for training and appointments; the office will be closed from September 14th through the 17th as Katie and Derek will be out of the office.

NRCS Update

Derek said not much has changed from last month's meeting. CSP contract has been obligated. He has 5 out of 31 left to finish up. December 18th is the deadline.

ISDA Update

Geneva said that the DSS update will come out later in the week. DJ Case is getting great feedback from the districts and will work on getting the information completed for the Jan Conference to present it. July 1st the 230 act update went into effect for supervisor requirements for training they will need.

Extension Update

Marty was not present.

RC&D Update

Katie gave an update on the State Envirothon meeting and how they are hoping to go forward with the funds provided by RC&D to fund a part-time staff. John reminded the group that the RC&D Annual meeting is September 22nd at One-Eyed Jacks. The Winamac Envirothon team will be the key speakers for the night.

Other Partners

4. OLD BUSINESS

Budget Hearing Update

Katie let the board know how the budget hearing went. She was happy with how the conversations went with the county council and so were the other members that attended. They have not released the finalized budget as of that morning, but when they send out the email with the 2027 budget she will email it out to the board.

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. She presented to the board the bill from Rural King to purchase the post for the signs. Katie said that so far 82.27 has been spent out of the 500.00 set aside for the fund. The next purchase is going to be a barrier for the mulched area because when it floods back there the mulch is washed away. After that part is figured out, she will purchase bags of mulch to add back to the area.

Annual Meeting Planning

Katie mentioned to the board she had looked into the Church in Monon and she doesn't feel like it will be the right space for the annual meeting. She recommended they look into either Camp Tecumseh or Lori's in Wolcott. Camp Tecumseh has plenty of space for them to pick for a meeting and Lori's has a decent space. Rich mentioned we should add into our booklet for the annual meeting statistics based on the 4 areas of our business plan we are working on. Also add in our mission and vision statement. We are also going to add to it the list of the supervisors and the parts they are taking on from the plan. This will allow people to see who they can approach to talk about certain areas.

5. NEW BUSINESS

Relationship Building

Rich had mentioned to Katie about trying to attend the Carroll County SWCD Annual meeting in January. The only problem with attending is Katie is planning on attending the IASWCD annual conference at the same time. Jan 25th is when the SWCD is having their annual meeting, so Katie asked if there would be a way for the board members to make an appearance to their annual meeting in place of her and John F since they are going to the IASWCD Conference.

The board all said that they would attend the meeting for our county. We are hoping to recreate the county relationships between the two as it was lost in the past. Katie also mentioned she had talked to Rhonda about their watershed management plan because we are planning on creating our own for the county.

IASWCD Conference

Katie had mentioned earlier about how the conference is at the same time as the Carroll County Annual meeting. She said that if she could she would like to go to the conference because DJ case is planning on doing their presentation about the assessment of the state SWCDs. Board agrees to have Katie attend the conference over the annual meeting for the other county. Once the conference opens up, she will register.

6. OTHER

Rich requested Katie put the business plan on the agenda as old business so we can discuss it as we gather information.

Katie is going to send out to the board the business plan that has been updated with all the latest discussions and send out to the board the Local Working Group information about how the ranking worked out.

Katie is going to reach out to Sara Peel to set up a meeting for her to come to the December meeting.

7. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43am.

Next meeting will be held on:

October 13th at 8am

USDA Center