

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER - On Tuesday August 21, 2018, at 7:05 pm a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD at the Centre Township Library, South Bend, IN was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.

PRESENT – SWCD

John Dooms, Chair/Supervisor
Jeremy Cooper, Vice-Chair/Supervisor
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor
David Straughn

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

Debbie Knepp, NRCS DC
Sarah Longenecker, SWCD CC
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD AA
Jane Sablich, SWCD EEC

Present - EX-OFFICIO

PRESENT – Public
n/a

ABSENT – SWCD

Stacey Silvers, Supervisor
Dave Craft
Jim LaFree
Dru Wrasse
Richard Schmidt
Randy Matthys
Chuck Lehman

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – n/a

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- a. **Legislative Updates** – n/a
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates** – n/a
- c. **Minutes: July 17, 2018 board meeting** – Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented by motion (Cooper/Burkholder).
- d. **Treasurer’s Report: (7/18/2018-8/21/2018)** – The treasurer’s report was reviewed and approved as submitted by motion (Cooper, Burkholder).
- e. **Approval of Claims (7/18/2018-8/21/2018)** –A motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11365-11370 for a total of \$528.77 as presented. Motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

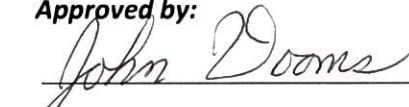
- a. **St. Joseph Co. Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff Written Reports**
 - i. **Field Office & Education Reports** – The field office report was presented to the board & reviewed. (Attached)
 - ii. **NRCS Talking Points** - Knepp went over the NRCS DC talking points (attached)
- b. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Annual Meeting** – Hoffarth has reached out to Stephanie McClane from NRCS to be a possible speaker. She hasn’t heard back from her yet. She will follow up and report back before the next board meeting. St Hedwig has a new manager in charge of the hall and is asking that we pay the \$500 deposit which will go towards our final amount due. A motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to release the \$500 for the deposit. Motion carried.
- c. **Women’s Learning Circle** – Longenecker reported the workshop was a success. We had 16 participants attend and they all felt it was an enlightening to learn about conservation planning and restoring lands to native habitats. Total spent was \$355.58 which included supplies, breakfast and lunch, and fees at Potato Creek State Park. This will be divided between St Joseph, Marshall and Elkhart County SWCD’s for \$118.52 each county.
- d. **Review Current NRCS MOU** – Knepp reminded the board of our MOU with NRCS. This is currently being reviewed and updated since the current MOU expires this year.
- e. **CWI 2016 payments** – Two no-till applications that were pre-approved by the board have completed their practices. 96.5 acres for \$1,447.50 and 174.2 acres for \$2,613 for a total of 270.7 acres. A motion (Burkholder, Vandewalle) was made to release the CWI funds for \$4,060.50. Motion carried. Longenecker let the board know that an application came in for cover crops from an applicant last year. The applicant liked the results from last year and would like to try again this year. Since this is the final year of our grant and having several pollinator habitats still pending we may or may not have the funds from CWI to cover this application. A motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to approve the application in the amount of \$1,110.00 and use district funds if CWI funds are not available. Motion carried.


V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Schedules/ Upcoming Events / Any Related Claims** - calendars were handed out explaining upcoming special events & holiday schedules on the back of the agenda.
 - i. **Quarterly Supervisors Meeting** – After some discussion it was decided to have the November board meeting at 9am with the quarterly supervisors meeting immediately following at the Plymouth USDA Service Center office.

- ii. **Reschedule January's Board Meeting** – due to the IASWCD annual conference, it was decided to hold the January board meeting on Wednesday January 16th at Farm Credit Services at 9am.
 - iii. **NE Region Meeting** – staff and board are unable to attend.
 - iv. **Environmental Education Association of Indiana Conference** – a motion (Burkholder, Vandewalle) was made to approve Sablich attending September 28-30 at a cost of \$165 for registration. Sablich would prefer to drive back and forth since it is less than an hour away and use the district van, so no travel expenses will occur.
 - v. **IDEA Conference** – a motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to release up to \$400 for Hoffarth to attend this conference with hotel and registration fees. All meals are included.
 - vi. **Locally Led Meeting** – Longenecker informed the board we will be holding this year's meeting on September 18th at 6pm before the board meeting.
- b. **Clean Water Indiana Grant 2019** – Sablich passed out drafts for the 2019 CWI grant. The grant proposal is due September 14th. We are asking the board for \$1,500 per year for 3 years of the grant as cash match. Board approved this and the draft to move forward in the application process.
 - c. **Marshall County 319 Grant** – Sablich informed the board that Marshall County SWCD is applying again this year for a 319 implementation grant just like last year that wasn't funded. The board approved the collaboration and will send a letter of support to Marshall County SWCD.
 - d. **Dale Stoner Memorial Fund** – Doms informed the board we have received \$500 towards this fund. He is asking that we start to think of a project that would be a permanent fixture like a filter strip or education project that we could have a sign made in Dale's honor.
- VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR** – Hoffarth included in the packet a flyer for the Marshall County grazing workshop being held on August 24th. She also included the scholarship application from the Hoosier Chapter of Soil & Water Conservation Society (attached). Deadline to apply is November 1, 2018. Doms read a thank you card from the National Association of Conservation Districts for our 2018 contribution.
- VII. ADJOURNMENT** – The board meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Hoffarth
 Administrative Assistant
 St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District
 2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563
 Email: Sandra.hoffarth@in.nacdnet.net
www.stjosephswcd.org

Approved by:


 Supervisor


 Supervisor


 Supervisor

Field Office Report July 16 – Aug 17, 2018

General/Miscellaneous

Office Work

- Design Heavy Use Area for producer

Outreach

- Unity Garden Neighborhood Barbecue

EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Office Work

- Modify contract
- Review/approve Nutrient Management plan written by a Technical Service Provider
- Review and approve wetland enhancement engineering design
- Modify contract to change type of structure, design, cost for Grade Stabilization structure
- Process payment for Nutrient Management plan, Nutrient Management applied
- Process payment for 2 different Invasive Species Control contracts
- Process payment for Pollinator Habitat

Field Work

- Met with landowner and Tech Team to explain new engineering designs for structure

WRP/WRE- Wetland Reserve Program

Office Work

- 3 new applications received – started process of eligibility, developing maps, Landowner interviews
- Process payment for weed control
- Process payment for tile reroute
- Completed resource inventory documentation for a Compatible Use request

Field Work

- Field check of completed practices – 2nd year weed control for tree planting
- Final inspection of property after closing of easement

CSP- Conservation Stewardship Program

Office Work

- 2 applications preapproved (Developed planning folder, maps; assistance notes, resource inventory documentation)
- Met with landowner and started process for a re-enroll application

Field Work

-

CRP-Conservation Reserve Program

Office Work

- Planning – 1 contract, 3 practices (Marshall County)

Field Work

- 4 field visits (Marshall County)

CWI- Clean Water Indiana

Office Work

- Correspondence on 2 raingarden demonstration garden plans/specs

Field Work

- Met with sign contractor to show raingarden sign placement (2 gardens)

Wetland/Highly Erodible Determinations

Office Work

- Highly Erodible determinations – 4
- Wetland Determinations – 1
- Complete paperwork for wetland appeal
- Complete process for potential violation

Field Work

-

Rule 5/ Rule 13

Office Work

- 6 SWPPP's reviewed

Education

Age	Total # Programs	Total # People
Youth Education	7	223
Adult Education	1	27

- Women's Learning Circle
- Worked the Education station in Pathway to Water Quality at the state fair
- Also met with teachers from Riley, Penn, and Marion
- Loaned sandbox to Riley High School for their teacher day

Meetings & Trainings	Webinars
Staff meetings -3 Annual Meeting Committee Soil Health Team - 2 Monarch habitat Technical Training County Budget State Office visit to develop process for HEL Determination workload Supervisor's meeting 2019 CWI Grant meeting - 2 NRCS Area meeting State Office Pokagon Tribe meeting to prepare for NRCS Diversity Day County Youth Leadership Meeting County Youth Leadership Press Conference NAI Planning Meeting Elkhart Teacher Workshop IDEA Meeting	Quail Habitat in Agriculture PSS Quality Assurance High Tunnels

Comments from the Community

From the Women's Learning Circle Workshop

"A great workshop once again!"

"It was fun hanging out."

"Enjoyed it! Thanks!"

DC Talking Points

August 2018

FARM BILL

EQIP and CSP Local workgroups

The Local Workgroups bulletin will be out soon to discuss local resources concerns for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). The bulletin will have a due date of November 2, 2018 and require counties to prioritize the highest 10 resource concerns in the county.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) - Easement Application Due Date Change

ACEP applications for the FY-2019 funding period will now be due August 17, 2018. This earlier date will allow the field staff more time to complete ranking and application follow up information. Please get the word out to potential applicants and partners.

USDA Opens Up Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Enrollment

CRP is an important component of a suite of programs that help improve natural resources on private lands by encouraging agricultural producers to set aside unproductive, marginal lands that should not be farmed to reduce soil erosion, improve water quality, provide habitat for wildlife and boost soil health.

FSA stopped accepting applications last fall for the CRP continuous signup (excluding applications for the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and CRP grasslands). This pause allowed USDA to review available acres and avoid exceeding the 24 million-acre CRP cap set by the 2014 Farm Bill (current enrollment is approx. 22.7 million acres). New limited practice availability and short sign up period helps ensure that landowners with the most sensitive acreage will enroll. Eligible landowners can sign up by August 17, 2018 at the FSA office. Field offices have been provided the following details:

- There will not be a CRP General Signup in FY18;
 - Existing CRP participants with contracts set to expire September 30, 2018 may enroll into a 1-year contract extension. Note - this does not apply to CREP since enrollment for CREP never ceased and they are continually eligible for re-enrollment options.
 - Enrollment for CRP (new enrollments and re-enrollments) will be accepted until August 17 with the following changes:
 - Soil rental rates will be based on the National Agricultural Statistics Service rental rates and are lower than previous CRP rental rates (these new rates do apply to CREP offers not currently signed prior to June 4th)
 - Only the following practices are eligible:
 - CP8A, Grass Waterways, Non-easement, CP9, Shallow Water Area for Wildlife, CP21, Filter Strips, CP21B, Denitrifying Bioreactor on Filter Strips, CP21S, Saturated Filter Strips, CP22, Riparian Buffer, CP22B, Denitrifying Bioreactor on Riparian Buffers, CP22S, Saturated Riparian Buffer, CP23, Wetland Restoration on Floodplain, CP23A, Wetland Restoration, Non-floodplain, CP27, Farmable Wetlands Pilot Wetland, CP28, Farmable



Wetland Pilot Buffer, CP37, CP39, FWP Constructed Wetland, CP40, FWP Aquaculture Wetland restoration, CP41, FWP Flooded Prairie Wetland

- Several of the incentive payments are not available with this sign up (excludes CREP)
- A CRP Grasslands opportunity is available

MRBI/NWQI INFORMATION SESSIONS

NRCS is kicking off a new round of Mississippi River Basin Initiative and National Water Quality Initiative projects. There will be opportunities for planning projects in Fiscal Year 2019, and for targeted financial assistance through Farm Bill Programs beginning in Fiscal Year 2020. Indiana NRCS will be holding three information sessions on these opportunities:

- Central Session: August 2, NRCS State Office, 6013 Lakeside Blvd., Indianapolis, IN 46278, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
- Northern Session: August 7, Fulton County Library, 320 W. 7th Street, Rochester, IN 46975, from 10:00 a.m. to noon.
- Southern Session: August 8, Harrison County Purdue Extension Office, 247 Atwood Street, Corydon, IN 47112, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.

For additional information please contact Jill Reinhart, ASTC Partnerships at jill.reinhart@in.usda.gov or at 317-295-5883.

NRCS AND FSA NEW AGREEMENT

Through a new agreement between NRCS and FSA, partners and contractors working with NRCS programs will soon have access to print and generate producer farm data reports and subsidiary records for NRCS program purposes. NRCS is working to grant access to those partners who already have ProTracts permissions. State guidance and training materials for getting permissions and using the systems is being drafted. Partners and contractors will be notified when access has been granted.

COOPERATIVE WORKING AGREEMENTS

The current partnership Cooperative Working Agreements expire on December 31, 2018. The Indiana Conservation Partnership leaders are reviewing the agreement. SWCDs will receive the new agreements soon with a return date of early September.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

Indiana's NRI data collection will begin in August and run through until the end of the calendar year. The State Office cartographic technicians will be working on the data collection. DC's and FSA should be aware they may be contacted by one of us to gather producer specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plan and cropping history to name a few.

NRI is the National Resources Inventory, a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. If you have any comments or questions, please contact Rick Neilson at: rick.neilson@in.usda.gov or Ken Streett at: kenny.streett@in.usda.gov.



ELIGIBILITY

An applicant for the scholarship must (a) have successfully completed at least two years of study in an Indiana accredited college by August, 2018, (b) have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 (on 4.0 scale), (c) be an undergraduate enrolled in an agricultural or natural resource conservation related curriculum, and (d) be working toward his/her first B.S. degree.

Scholarship applicants will be enrolled in such major courses of study as agronomy, biology, soil science, wildlife management, forestry, geography, and environmental management. Other courses of study related to conservation may also qualify. Previous recipients are not eligible for a second Hoosier Chapter scholarship.

SELECTION

A scholarship selection committee, composed of members of the Hoosier Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society, will make the selection of winners based on financial need, scholastic achievement, career objectives, and demonstrated leadership in student activities. No Hoosier Chapter member may serve on the scholarship selection committee if related to any scholarship applicant.

SCHOLARSHIP

One scholarships of \$1000 will be awarded. Recognition of scholarship recipient and presentation of award will be made at the annual meeting of the Chapter held in November.

DEADLINE

Applications for the scholarship may be emailed or sent by regular mail, and must be received by the scholarship selection committee chairman, or postmarked by **November 1, 2018**.

HOOSIER CHAPTER SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY

The scholarship program is intended to encourage qualified students to increase their interest in conservation, to obtain technical competence in some area of conservation, and to pursue a career in this area of endeavor.

The Soil and Water Conservation Society is a nonprofit, scientific and educational association. The Society advocates the protection, enhancement, and wise use of soil, water, and related natural resources. Through education and example, we promote an ethic that recognizes the interdependence of people and the environment.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT:

**SCOTT WAGNER, CHAIRMAN
SCHOLARSHIP TASKFORCE
2825 DAN JONES ROAD.
PLAINFIELD, IN 46168**

scholarships@hoosierchapterswcs.org

<http://www.hoosierchapterswcs.org>

The programs and services of the Hoosier Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or physical disability.

HOOSIER
CHAPTER



SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
SOCIETY

*Announces
the
2018
Conservation
Scholarship*

Conservation Scholarship Application

PERSONAL DATA

Name of Applicant _____

Current Address
PHONE:
E-MAIL:

Permanent Address
PHONE:
E-MAIL:

Are you married? ___ YES ___ NO

Please list the name and age of any dependents (other than spouse) you claim on your tax return:

Are you presently holding or receiving any other scholarships? ___ YES ___ NO AMOUNT \$ _____

What percentage of your funds for college have come from (should total 100%) :

PARENTS	WORK	LOANS	SCHOLARSHIPS	OTHER
%	%	%	%	%

Please identify the source(s) for OTHER: _____

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE

What is your major course of study? _____

List college credit courses you have completed that provide an understanding of natural resources:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

List jobs you have held or now hold which provide an understanding of natural resources:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

List leadership positions you have held or now hold (student organizations, 4-H, FFA, etc.) :

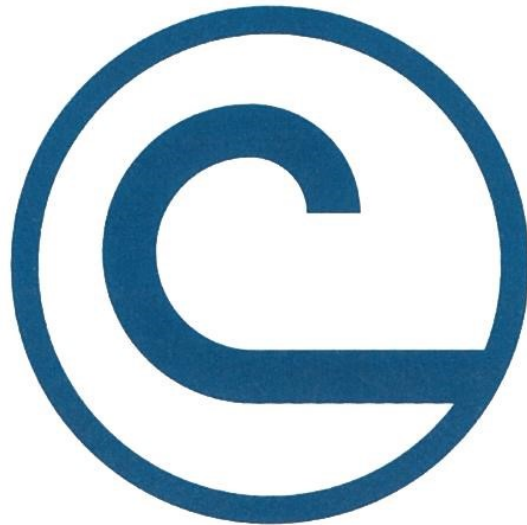
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

SUPPORTING MATERIALS

- ♦ Attach or e-mail a 1 (one) page letter outlining your background, attitudes toward conservation, objectives of your educational program, career plans and financial need.
- ♦ Attach or e-mail 3 (three) letters of recommendation. We suggest using your academic advisor and two others.
- ♦ Attach or e-mail a copy of your most recent transcript.

If selected, I agree to use the Hoosier Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society scholarship award of \$1000 for my educational expenses.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____



National Association of Conservation Districts

Dear St. Joseph County SWCD

Thank you for your fiscal year 2018 membership dues payment. Your support ensures NACD can continue to represent districts' priorities in federal policy making, work to secure funding for conservation programs and districts, and provide tools and guides to help districts accomplish their missions.

Feel free to contact me to hear more or provide feedback on NACD's activities.

Thanks again for your support!

Marc Roberts

IN NACD Board Member