

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER - On Tuesday October 19, 2021, at 7:02 pm a zoom meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD was called to order by John Doods, Chairman.

PRESENT – SWCD

John Doods, Chair/Supervisor
Sam James, Supervisor
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor
Chris Matthys, Supervisor

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

Sarah Longenecker, SWCD CC
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD AA
Ally Pudlo, SWCD EEC

Present - EX-OFFICIO

Rachel Rawls, Purdue
Extension ANR

PRESENT – Public

ABSENT – SWCD

Debbie Knepp, NRCS DC
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor
David Straughn
Dave Craft
Chuck Lehman
Dru Wrasse
Richard Schmidt
Randy Matthys

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – n/a

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- a. **Legislative Updates** – n/a
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates** – Rachel Rawls, Purdue Ag & Natural Resources Educator updated about their upcoming Invasive Species Program (attached). She also invited the board to the Annual Extension Board Meeting being held Thursday October 21st at 6:30pm at the fairgrounds.
- c. **Minutes September 21, 2021 board meeting** – Board Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. (Matthys/James)
- d. **Treasurer's Report: (9/21/2021-10/18/2021)** – A motion (James/Matthys) was made to approve the treasurer's report as submitted. Motion carried.
- e. **Approval of Claims (9/21/2021-10/18/2021)** – A motion (Matthys/James) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11654-11657 for a total of \$1,279.26. Motion carried.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **St. Joseph Co. Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff Reports**
 - i. **Field Office Report** – The field office report was presented to the board, reviewed & discussed. (Attached)
 - ii. **NRCS Talking Points** – report was presented to the board, reviewed & discussed (attached).
- b. **Committee Reports**
 - i. **Annual Meeting** – A motion (Matthys/Burkholder) was made to set the ticket price at \$15/person. Motion carried. Discussion was had on possible speakers. Hoffarth will put together a list of possible speakers and report at Nov. board meeting. Discussion was had about the silent auction and if we should have one this year. This was tabled until next month.
 - ii. **Election** – Doods reported that the election committee is recommending Vandewalle to serve another 3-year term as an appointed supervisor. A motion (Burkholder/Matthys) was to appoint Vandewalle. Motion carried.
- c. **Field to Market update** – Longenecker updated the board that she was contacted to alter the contract to receive \$8,500 instead of the previously agreed \$5,333. No additional work is required.

V. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Schedules/ Upcoming Events / Any Related Claims / Staff Comp Time Requests** - calendars explaining upcoming special events & holiday schedules on the back of the agenda.
- b. **2022 Indiana Watershed Leadership Academy** – a motion (Burkholder/Matthys) was made to release \$750 for registration fees for Pudlo to attend Watershed Leadership Academy. Motion carried. Pudlo will look into scholarships to reduce the cost and report back to the board.
- c. **2022 IASWCD Annual Conference** – Doods reported that the conference will be held January 23-25 at the Westin Indianapolis. Early registration is due by November 15 at the rate of \$330, registration after that date will be \$385. Hotel is \$112/night plus taxes. Parking is \$40/day. One dinner is on your own, so the district will provide \$15 per diem to cover that meal. A motion (Matthys/James) was made to approve 6 registrations for staff and supervisors totaling \$3,450 (\$575/person). Motion carried.

VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR – none

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The board meeting adjourned at 7:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hoffarth

Administrative Assistant

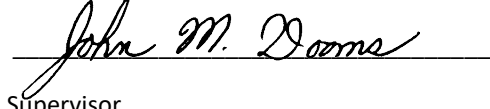
St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District

2903 Gary Drive, Plymouth, IN 46563

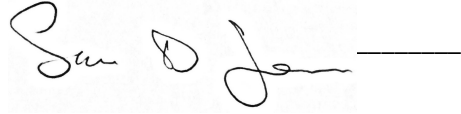
Email: Sandra.hoffarth@in.nacdnet.net

www.stjosephswcd.org

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "John M. Dooms", written over a horizontal line.

Supervisor

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Sam D. Jones", written over a horizontal line.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M. C. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

INVASIVE SPECIES



PURDUE EXTENSION'S **INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM** IS COMING!

Register Today to Protect Indiana From Invasive Species

Registration is now open for Purdue Extension's new Invasive Species Signature Program, where you can help protect Indiana's ecology and economy by learning how to prevent the spread of invasive species.

Details on how to register are below. Don't miss your chance to help keep Indiana's public and private lands safe!

Dates: Thursdays, November 4, 11, and 18

Times: 6:00-8:30 PM ET

Location: North Liberty Public Library, 105 E Market St. North Liberty, IN 46554

Registration Info / Link

<https://cvent.me/o7qK7K>

For more information or questions, contact:

Phil Woolery at pwoolery@purdue.edu, 574-772-9141

Purdue University is an Equal Opportunity/Equal Access university.



Field Office Report
September 20 – October 15, 2021

General/Miscellaneous

Office Work

- Complete Locally Led meeting documentation
- Update FY21 Individual Development Plan (Deb)
- Performance Report to supervisor/Performance Review (Deb)
- Nov/Dec Newsletter

Field Work

- Site visit for Invasive Species Survey
- Site visit with grazing specialist to discuss potential for rotational grazing and programs

EQIP- Environmental Quality Incentive Program

Office Work

- Processed payments for 2 producer/landowners – Invasive Species Control, Wildlife Habitat monitoring
- Adjust/correct seed mix mistake of vendor
- Certified letters of non-compliance – 2
- Status reviews - 9

Field Work

- Site visit to explain EQIP contract to the new landowners with DNR Forester
- Site visit for new application for Invasive Species Control

WRE- Wetland Reserve Program

Field Work

- Site visit with biologist to determine areas to seed sedge meadow

CSP- Conservation Stewardship Program

Office Work

- Document Irrigation Management completed
- Certify and print payment forms - 11

Field Work

- Deliver maps for re-enrolls to DNR Forester

CRP-Conservation Reserve Program

Office Work

- Document re-enrolls as of Oct 1st

CWI- Clean Water Indiana

Office Work

- Completed supporting docs for pollinator habitat plan

Wetland Determinations / Highly Erodible Land Determinations

Office Work

- 1 Potential Violation Request

Rule 5/ Rule 13

Office/Field Work

- Reviewed 2 SWPPPs, did site visit and processed 1 NOT

<u>Education</u>		
Age	Total # Programs/ Hours	Total # People
Youth Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoe Program (Marian High School), 6 hours • Canoe Program (LaVille Jr/Sr High School), 6 hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 adults, 40 students • 5 adults, 30 students
Adult Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland Wonders at Potato Creek, 2 ¾ hours 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 13 adults
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and prepping for upcoming October programs (4th grade Wildlife Program, Treats On The Trail, Fall Family Night, Indiana Master Naturalists Soil presentation) • Loaned out Wildlife Kit to BSA Boy Scout Troop • Indiana Envirothon 2022 prep • 4H Soil and Water Science Contest 2022 prep • Started planning out Science Alive 2022 • Networking 		
Meetings & Trainings		
Staff Meeting or TEAMS – 3 NRCS Diversity Day CISMA – 2 USDA Workplace Safety Town Hall County health insurance & updates Urban updates	AgLearn – Economics of Conservation – Part1 Pest Management and Water Quality Program/Technology Update – 3 Project Learning Tree classes Indiana Envirothon NE Area Soil Health Team meeting	
Webinars	Dates	
Shrubland Birds response to Conservation Economics of Soil Health on 100 Farms Developing Hybrid Programs	Oct 11 – Federal Holiday	
<u>Comments from the Community</u>		

DC Talking Points

October 2021

FARM BILL

Thanks for all your input during FY 2021. Indiana has completed obligations for EQIP (99.4%) and CSP (97.3%) for FY 2021. We welcome your input again at the Indiana State Technical Committee Meeting on October 21, 2021 to discuss Farm Bill Program changes for FY 2022.

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Funds are available to help landowners protect and restore key farmlands, grasslands and wetlands across Indiana. ACEP applications for the current funding round must be submitted on or before the closing dates:

Wetland Reserve Easements: November 15, 2021

Agricultural Land Easements: January 18, 2022

Grasslands Conservation Initiative (CSP-GCI)

Applicants can now begin signing up for GCI. Interested applicants, who received eligibility notification from FSA, must sign an application or the field office that they are interested in applying by no later than October 15 to be considered in the CSP-GCI 2022-1 signup period.

Any eligible producer who signs up after October 15, 2021 will be entered in a future signup. If a producer signs up for CSP-GCI at any point before or after October 15, 2021 and was not included on FSA's list of eligible producers, those applications may be evaluated for a future signup.

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) Payments

Most CSP contracts (CSP-Renewal, CSP-Classic, and CSP-GCI), must have the payments approved by November 5, 2021 and you should be hearing from your DC soon about payment. For CSP active contracts obligated in FY 2019, 2018, and 2017, participant can elect to receive payment in calendar year 2022.

NATURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY DATA COLLECTION

The National Resources Inventory (NRI) is a statistical survey of land use and natural resource conditions and trends on U.S. non-Federal lands. Indiana's NRI data collection will begin in early October and run through the end of January 2022. The soils staff at the state office will collect the data. Field office staff and FSA may be contacted to provide producer-specific information, such as, tillage practices, conservation plans, cropping history, etc. If you have any comments or questions, please contact John Allen, Assistant State Soil Scientist at john.allen@usda.gov.

LOCAL WORK GROUPS

Local Work Groups focus on identifying agricultural and natural resource issues existing in their communities and provide information and feedback to direct NRCS farm bill programs, such as EQIP and CSP. Participants can be farmers; private woodland owners; representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations; and agencies carrying out environmental, agricultural, or conservation programs and activities. The LWG is a subcommittee of the State Technical Committee that meets

annually to discuss their local natural resource issues and provide recommendations on their top priority concerns to the STC. Local Work Group meetings should be held by October 15.

NEW COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY

NRCS investing up to \$50 million nationally in cooperative agreements to support historically underserved farmers with climate-smart agriculture and forestry. The Racial Justice and Equity Conservation Cooperative Agreements are available to entities and individuals for two-year projects that expand the delivery of conservation assistance to farmers who are beginning, limited resource, socially disadvantaged and veteran farmers.

The projects should help historically underserved farmers in implementing natural resources conservation practices that:

- Improve soil health.
- Improve water quality.
- Provide habitat for local wildlife species of concern.
- Improve the environmental and economic performance of working agricultural lands.
- Build and strengthen local food projects that provide healthy food and economic opportunities.

Entities who provide outreach assistance to historically underserved groups are eligible, including Native American tribal governments and organizations, nonprofit organizations and private and public institutions of higher education.

Applications must be received by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on October 25. See the [grants.gov announcement](#) for details and application instructions. A webinar for potential applicants was held in late September. When available, instructions regarding how to access the webinar will be posted in the opportunity on Grants.gov in the Synopsis tab. Funding can be requested for between \$100,000 and \$1 million. There is no cost-share or match required for this opportunity.

NOTE: Purdue Extension is coordinating a statewide proposal, anyone interested in partnering should reach out to Tamara Benjamin at tamara17@purdue.edu. Questions can also be directed to Jill Reinhart, NRCS ASTC Partnerships, at jill.reinhart@usda.gov.

CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE & FORESTRY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Comments are requested on a new climate smart agriculture and forestry partnership initiative, that will inform a call for proposals later this fall. USDA will support a set of pilot projects that provide incentives to implement climate smart conservation practices on working lands and to quantify and monitor the carbon and greenhouse gas benefits associated with those practices.

Comments may be provided on or before 11:59 p.m. EST on November 1, via the Federal Register, Docket ID: USDA-2021-0010. Insights gained through this process will inform development of a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) soliciting Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Partnership Initiative project proposals that encourage the adoption of climate-smart practices and promote markets for climate-smart commodities. USDA plans to announce the NOFA this fall, with project proposals accepted early next year.

SHARE YOUR HARVEST ONLINE

Fall has just begun, and for many, fall is synonymous with harvest. As America's farmers work their fields this season to supply the food that feeds the world, let's share their stories with thousands online through the [#harvest2021 customer engagement campaign](#). Invite your customers, friends, and farming family to submit photos and text describing their harvest by October 27 to SM.FP.Social@usda.gov. For more information, visit the [FarmersGov blog](#).

GOVDELIVERY FIELD OFFICE ADMINISTRATORS

General NRCS articles can be found on SharePoint here: [Public Affairs - GovDelivery - All Documents \(sharepoint.com\)](#).