

MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER - On Tuesday August, 2021, at 7:05 pm a meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.

PRESENT – SWCD

John Dooms, Chair/Supervisor
Dave Vandewalle, Supervisor
Sam James, Supervisor
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor
Chris Matthys, Supervisor
David Straughn
Dave Craft

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

Sarah Longenecker, SWCD CC
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD AA
Ally Pudlo, SWCD EEC
Debbie Knepp, NRCS DC

Present - EX-OFFICIO

PRESENT – Public

ABSENT – SWCD

Chuck Lehman
Dru Wrasse
Richard Schmidt
Randy Matthys

II. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA – Old business f. field to market update, g. county budget, new business e. annual report style

III. REGULAR BUSINESS

- a. **Legislative Updates – n/a**
- b. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates** – Rachel Rawls, Purdue Ag & Natural Resources Educator sent flyer (attached) for their Pinney Purdue Field Day and announced her focus for her upcoming program year will be on crops, diversified farming and food systems and horticulture as well as urban soil health.
- c. **Minutes June 16, 2021 board meeting** – Board Minutes were reviewed and approved as presented. (Matthys/Burkholder)
- d. **Treasurer’s Report: (6/15/2021 - 8/16/2021)** – A motion (Matthys/Vandewalle) was made to approve the treasurer’s report as submitted. Motion carried.
- e. **Approval of Claims (6/15/2021 - 8/16/2021)** – A motion (Matthys/Burkholder) was made to approve Claim Nos. 11635-11646 for a total of \$5,406.56. 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) Pudlo requested guidance for programs. After some discussion, the board requested programs to be outdoors if possible. If a program must be indoors, Pudlo will follow NRCS guidance.
 - ii. **NRCS Talking Points** – Knepp presented the NRCS talking points (attached).
- b. **CISMA meeting July 13th & Aug 13th** – Knepp reported that both meetings focus has been on establishing the mission statement. Several ideas were created, and a doodle poll has been sent out to determine the favorite one. The group is still looking for someone to step up in the leadership role and take minutes.
- c. **Clean Water Indiana** – Longenecker gave an updated report (attached). A motion (Vandewalle/Burkholder) was made to approve the 3 pending applications for cover crops: 6.2 acres \$124, 189.1 acres \$3,782, and 200 acres \$4,000. Motion carried.
- d. **NRCS MOU** – Knepp went over the NRCS MOU for the annual review. The signed copy is held in the office if anyone would like to see it, contact the office staff.
- e. **Office Chairs** – a motion (Burkholder/Vandewalle) was made to approve the purchase of 3 office chairs for staff not to exceed \$750.00. Motion carried.
- f. **Field to Market update** – Longenecker updated the board that this agreement would require reaching out and completing 10 commodity farmer surveys. There is \$17,000 to be split among the participating counties to complete these surveys. Board approved moving forward with exploring this program. A contract with more details will come later.
- g. **County Budget** – Burkholder, Matthys and James attended the county budget hearing. They requested staff raises and feel with the information the staff provided it went over well. County budgets will be approved in later months and reported to the board after approval.

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. Pudlo requested comp time for educational program on August 28, Sarah requested comp time for soil health team at the state fair on August 20. All board approved.

- i. **Upcoming board meeting locations** – discussion was held to handle month by month watching current Covid restrictions.
- ii. **Locally led meeting** – board decided to hold this year’s meeting at 6pm on September 21 at the North Liberty Park before the September board meeting.
- b. **Kankakee River Basin RCPP** – after a lot of discussion the board decided to table signing a letter of support until they can get more clarity on the details of this grant.
- c. **Clothing for staff & supervisors** – Staff and new supervisors need new polos and other SWCD apparel. A motion (Matthys/Burkholder) was made to purchase SWCD apparel not to exceed \$275.
- d. **Mileage** – Dooms reminded the board the staff has had a waiver for mileage reimbursement regardless of van availability during Covid to receive \$0.45/mile. Board now revokes this waiver and mileage is back to the \$0.45/mile if the van is not available and \$0.17 if the van is available and staff choose to use their own vehicle.
- e. **Annual Report Style** – Hoffarth brought samples of the past annual report styles (newsletter, calendar, and newspaper). After some discussion a motion (Dooms/Burkholder) was made to do the newspaper style for the 2021 annual report. Motion carried.

VI. PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR – none

VII. ADJOURNMENT – The board meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hoffarth

Administrative Assistant

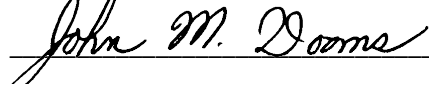
St. Joseph County Soil & Water Conservation District

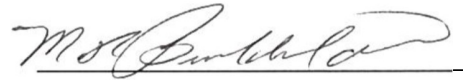
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Approved by:







Supervisor