



**St. Joseph County
Soil & Water Conservation District**

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**MONTHLY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday January 20, 2015**

- I. **CALL TO ORDER** - On Tuesday January 20, 2015, at 7:03 pm a regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors of the St Joseph County SWCD at Alligator Room - Centre Township Branch of St. Joseph County Public Library, 1150 East Kern Rd., South Bend, IN was called to order by John Dooms, Chairman.

PRESENT – SWCD/NRCS

John Dooms, Chair/Supervisor
Jeremy Cooper, Vice-Chair/Supervisor
Mike Burkholder, Supervisor
Arlene Schuchman, Supervisor
Sandra Hoffarth, SWCD Admin Assistant
Sarah Harville, SWCD CC
Rick Glassman, SWCD EEC
Debbie Knepp, NRCS DC
James Rodriguez, NRCS
Dave Craft
Jim LaFree
Chuck Lehman
Carole Riewe
Dave Vandewalle
Dale Stoner

EX-OFFICIO

n/a

PRESENT – PUBLIC

n/a

ABSENT – SWCD/NRCS

Jan Ivkovich
Stacey Silvers, Supervisor
Randy Matthys
Melvin Kulwicki
Paul Williams, III
Joe Long
Dru Wrasse
Richard Schmidt

PRESENT – HONORARY MEMBERS

n/a

- II. **ADDITIONS TO AGENDA** - Added appointment of new secretary/treasurer in Old Business Item F.

III. **REGULAR BUSINESS**

- A. **Legislative Updates – N/A.**
B. **Indiana Conservation Partnership Updates – N/A.**
C. **Minutes: December 16, 2014 board meeting** – The minutes were reviewed and approved as submitted.
D. **Treasurer’s Report: (12/17/2014-1/20/2015)** – The treasurer’s reports were both reviewed and approved as submitted.
E. **Approval of Claims (12/17/2014-1/20/2015)** – A recommendation (Riewe, Craft) and motion (Schuchman, Burkholder) were made to approve Claim Nos. 10932-10953 for a total of \$3,683.43 as presented. Both carried.

IV. **OLD BUSINESS**

- A. **St. Joseph Co. Soil & Water Conservation Partnership Staff Written Reports** - The field office report was presented to the board (attached) and reviewed. Deb Knepp went over the NRCS talking points covering a few Farm Bill updates. The 2015 spending bill passed and was signed by the President. Increases in Conservation Technical Assistance, as well as state and private forestry. CSP & EQIP both had budget cuts. Surveys are going out for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and Phosphorus Initiative. Indiana state office has an Earth Team Volunteer available until June 2015 to capture conservation photos. If you know of a great opportunity in our county let us know and we will get them up here to capture photos. ICP Webinar to be held February 26th, all partnership entities are welcome to attend.
- B. **Committee Reports**
1. **Annual Meeting**
- Tickets – due no later than Thursday January 22, 2015 to Sandra.
 - Silent Auction Items – also due to Sandra ASAP

- c. Mints & nuts – Rick brought up that this costs us about \$150 and a lot of time to separate and put out on the tables. Cooper suggested we scrap them this year to help cut costs. Passed with a majority vote.
- 2. **Rural Conservation – Producers Breakfast** – will be held this year at the Esther Singer building at the St. Joseph County 4-H Fairgrounds. A committee meeting will be held soon to finalize topics and other details.
- 3. **Forestry Committee – Tree Sales** – currently at \$1,738 compared to last year of \$2,511. To try and help bring the numbers back up committee has decided to push a few more print advertising campaigns in the Granger Gazette (\$85 for 1/8 pg. ad) and Walkerton Shopper (\$62.40 for a 2x4 ad). It was recommended (Riewe, Vandewalle) and motioned (Burkholder, Schuchman) to release \$200 for advertising.
- 4. **Marketing & Special Initiatives** – Hoffarth let everyone know that the new signs were picked up and look great. She then let everyone know the possible cost for getting sign/lettering specific for “Tree Sale” & “Field Day” would be another \$500 if they went through FASTSIGNS again. The board decided to table this and for Hoffarth to investigate other options and report back at a later meeting.
- C. **Science Alive** – Rick will be unable to attend for the full day. Hoffarth will be working from 1-4pm. He asked for volunteers to help all day in 2 shifts. 10am-1pm will be Dale Stoner and 1pm-4pm will be Carole Riewe. If any others are available they will come as well.
- D. **IASWCD Annual conference** – Cooper let us know that they met with all legislatures except for 1, Dvorak, Hoffarth sent him his legislative notebook. Cooper also let us know that he changed his vote on one of the resolutions after it was explained more about why county governments must match the 10k for the Clean Water grant.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

- A. **Schedules/ Upcoming Events / Any Related Claims** - calendars were handed out explaining upcoming special events & holiday schedules. Next month’s board meeting is actually starting at 6:30pm in the Butterfly Room!
 - a. **Leadership Institute – Feb 13 & 14 Wabash, IN** – Recommendation (Cooper, Burkholder) and motion (Cooper, Burkholder) was made to look into a scholarship for Hoffarth to attend and if scholarship is not attained to release \$125 for registration. Both passed.
 - b. **Soil Health Basics & Workshop – Feb 12th West Lafayette, IN** – Harville informed the board that details have not been released only a save the date announcement. A recommendation (Craft, Lehman) and motion (Schuchman, Burkholder) was made to release funds to cover the registration fee if needed.
 - c. **Northern Indiana Soil Mgt Seminar – Feb 6 Elkhart, IN** – Hoffarth gave details on this opportunity to earn PARP credits, cost is \$10. Let Hoffarth know if you would like to attend.
 - d. **Regional Mtg – March 25 Columbia City, IN** – Dooks gave general “save the date” information. More details to come later.
- B. **Legislative Notebooks** – Glassman summarized passing out the notebooks. Most were given when Dooks, Cooper & Burkholder met with them at the State House. Glassman is working on taking remaining ones to commissioners & council members.
- C. **Cover Crop Transect** – Harville went over results and informed the board that they were call it a cover crop if it was green. Corn 12% with 11% broadcast & 1% drilled. Soybeans 29%.

VI. **PRIVILEGE OF FLOOR** -

VII. **ADJOURNMENT** – The board meeting adjourned at 8:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Hoffarth

Administrative Assistant

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Approved by:

Supervisor

Supervisor

Supervisor