

**Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District Business Meeting**  
**Thursday, April 15, 2021 beginning @ 8:00 AM**  
**Purdue Extension, 1111 S. Jackson St., Frankfort, IN**

**Purpose:** *The Soil and Water Conservation District is responsible for the leadership in conserving and protecting soil and water related resources within Clinton County. The SWCD provides information about soil, water and related natural resource conservation; identifies and prioritizes local soil and water resource concerns; and connects land users to sources of education, technical and financial assistance to implement conservation practices and technologies.*

**Mission statement:** *The Mission of the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District is to create an environment through leadership, cooperation, and education, in which citizens wisely use and enhance natural resources.*

<u>Supervisors present</u>	<u>Associates present</u>	<u>Staff Present</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Others</u>
Clint Orr	Richard Moore	Austin Green		
Jerry Batts		Leah Harden		
Dustin Johnson				
Matt Kelley				

The regular business meeting was called to order at 8:12 AM by Chairman Orr.

**Minutes**

A motion to approve the recorded minutes of the March 2, 2021 meeting (Zoom virtual meeting) was made by Jerry. Seconded by Matt. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

The financial claims were submitted for review. A motion was made to approve the financial claims beginning March 2, 2021 and ending April 14, 2021. Jerry/Dustin. Motion carried.

**New Business**

David Beard submitted a letter of resignation from his elected position as SWCD Supervisor. The effective date of the resignation is March 25, 2021. The Board reviewed the requirements to fill a vacancy. Whomever agrees to serve will fulfill the requirements of David's remaining term which expires in March of 2022 (or at the next annual meeting). Board demographics and board diversity were discussed. A list of potential candidates was reviewed. The Board requested that the District Administrator begin contacting individuals to ascertain willingness and eligibility to serve the remaining term.

The Fiscal Year 2022 Clean Water Act Section 319 grant solicitation has been announced. The due date for submission of a Notice of Intent is June 1, 2021. The application due date is September 1, 2021. The Resource Conservation Specialist, Austin Green communicated with the IDEM Watershed Specialist, Amanda Studor-Bond concerning submission of a NOI for a second phase of implementation efforts in the Browns Wonder-Sugar Creek watershed. The current 3-year agreement is set to expire in October 2021. If a proposal would be selected for funding it would likely begin late 2022 allowing for the project cost-share availability to continue without a lapse. Considerations of current unallocated funds were discussed. A recommendation was made to submit the NOI, work on a project proposal throughout the summer and to re-evaluate the remaining budget prior to submitting an actual project proposal. Submitting an NOI does not require that a follow-up proposal be submitted (although a project proposal MUST be preceded by an NOI). Jerry made a motion to submit an NOI for FY2022 funding for the BWSC watershed. Seconded by Dustin. Motion carried.

The District Support Specialist, Geneva Tyler mentioned in a previous business meeting that if the Board thought that they might want to submit a letter to the SSCB requesting an extension for the Clean Water Indiana grant (due to COVID restrictions causing problems with effectively administering the funds) that it should be done prior to the May SSCB business meeting. Only \$3,200.00 of the \$33,000.00 has been allocated to date. Discussion followed. Matt made a motion to move forward with a request for an extension. Seconded by Jerry. Motion carried.

The Truax drill after spring inspection resulted in replacement of several parts and the recommendation for more maintenance after the season is over. The piece of equipment is nearly 30 years old and showing significant wear. Discussion on replacement (new or used) took place. No action taken.

The Clinton SWCD was contacted about distributing water well test kits through the SWCD office. The company, EnviroTestKits based out of Kentucky would provide the test kits to the office and the samples would be shipped to their lab for analysis. The local health department offers a similar service. More information is needed but if staff can commit the time required to administering this type of service then the Board was in favor. Jerry/Dustin. Motion carried.

River Friendly Farmer nominations are due to the Indiana Assn. of Soil and Water Conservation District office by June 10, 2021. Nominations should be submitted to District Administrator, Leah Harden by the end of May to allow for application completion and for landowner field visits to occur.

#### **Old Business**

No pending old business to address.

#### **Staff Report/Conservation Partner Report**

**FSA, CED** – Brittany Shepherd – no report provided

**ISDA, DSC** – Geneva Tyler/George Reger – written report provided

**Purdue Extension, AgNR Educator** – Adam Shanks – no report provided

**NRCS, District Conservationist** – Kaitlyn Fagan (no report provided at time of meeting NOTE: report was inbox when returning to the office and was distributed to supervisors by email).

**Resource Conservation Specialist** – Austin Green (written report provided)

The tillage transect survey was recently completed with assistance from Purdue Extension staff. The results were made available to the Board in the form of graphs and charts.

No cost-share applications to submit for approval, although some are in the preliminary stages of the application process.

Austin provided details of a potential rainscaping/rain garden project that he is collaborating on with Purdue Extension, the county surveyor and the landowner of the property where project would occur. May need to be paired with a streambank stabilization project to ensure that the rain garden has a long-term sustainability plan. Encouraged City involvement as well.

INfield Advantage update – Austin and Adam are conducting soil health assessments for enrolled growers.

The landfill review is scheduled for May 6<sup>th</sup>. Board members interested in attending were asked to contact Austin so that they could be included on details about time and meeting locations.

Rule 5 workload is increasing.

**District Administrator** – Leah Harden (written report provided)

Collaborated with Farm Bureau, Inc., Purdue Extension, Purdue Science Outreach to offer a virtual Farm Education Conservation Camp option for fourth and fifth grade educators/students.

Urban Soil Health Program launched. Regional Soil Health Specialists were hired regionally and will coordinate resources available to partners. Regional virtual sessions to provide an overview of the program are scheduled throughout the month of April.

The County announced that Rick Brown has been hired (or contracted with) a new Human Resources consultant. Mr. Brown replaces Dennis Dunlap who recently retired. Mr. Brown's contact information has previously been emailed out to supervisors.

#### **Other Business**

SWCD staff were contacted by an individual who identified himself as Matt Younkins, Material Matters, Elizabethtown, PA and explained that he was working with a local utility interested in upgrading their facility to generate a biosolids fertilizer product. He was inquiring about local agriculture and use of biosolids in Clinton County. Interview questions were provided and the Board reviewed and provided collective comments in response to the questions as appropriate and based on their knowledge on the topic. No contacts for contractors or individuals could be provided due to the potential of it being a violation of the privacy act. The responses will be edited and sent to Mr. Younkins on behalf of the SWCD.

The Wabash River Enhancement Corporation is submitting a grant proposal to the Corn and Soybean Alliance. If funded, the focus of the project will be to improve soil health in the Greater Wabash River watershed. Approximately \$40,000.00 is being sought to aid farmers in installing conservation initiatives (primarily cover crops) in the Greater Wabash River and neighboring watersheds. Candidates will work with their local SWCD's to sign-up.

The regular business meeting adjourned at 10:20 AM. Jerry/Dustin. Motion carried. The next regularly scheduled business meeting will be Tuesday, May 4 beginning at 7:30 AM at Purdue Extension.

Respectfully submitted by Leah Harden.

**Minutes Approval**

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Clint Orr, **Chairman**

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Dustin Johnson, **Vice Chairman**

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Jerry Batts, **Member**

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Vacant, **Member**

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Matt Kelley, **Member**