

**Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District Business Meeting**  
**Tuesday, November 2, 2021 beginning @ 7:30 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		Austin Green	Ty Brown	Adam Shanks, AgNR Ed.
Dustin Johnson		Leah Harden	David Beard	
Matt Kelley		Katelyn Fagan		
Jerry Batts				

The regular business meeting was called to order at 7:35 AM by Chairman Orr.

**Minutes**

A motion to approve the recorded minutes of the October 5, 2021 meeting was made by Matt. Seconded by Jerry. Motion carried.

**Financial Report**

The financial claims were submitted for review. A motion was made to approve the financial claims beginning October 5, 2021 and ending November 1, 2021. Matt/Jerry. Motion carried.

Certificate of deposit ending in \*\*\*156 reaches maturity on 11/17/2021. Matt made a motion to reinvest the funds at time of closeout at the best rate and term at maturity. Seconded by Jerry. Motion carried.

**New Business**

Clint Orr was nominated to serve as the voting delegate at the IASWCD business meeting. Dustin was nominated to serve as alternate. Jerry/Matt. Motion carried.

A request was made by the District Administrator to change the SWCD business meeting dates for the months of December 2021 and January 2022. The meetings would be moved from the first Tuesday to the second Tuesday of the month. A motion was made by Matt to approve the change. Seconded by Jerry. Motion carried. Revised meeting dates are December 14, 2021 and January 11, 2022. The change will be posted to the website and local news sources will be notified.

The Board discussed continuation of the quarterly billboard campaigns into fiscal year 2022. The estimated cost is \$500.00 per campaign or \$2,000.00 total. Discussion followed. A motion was made to approve the funds for a quarterly billboard campaign in FY 2022. Dustin/Matt. Motion carried.

The Business Plan (2018-2022) for the Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District will need to be reviewed and updated. Chairman Orr recommended that the current Business Plan be distributed for mark-up. Comments and revisions will be taken under consideration by the Board and the Business Plan updated at a winter (2022) business meeting.

**Cost-share approval** – no applications submitted for approval. Budget balances are reflected as follows:

Cost-share applications for consideration:

*S. Fork Wildcat Stewardship Initiative – Phase II (Section 319 grant)*

Budget - \$100,000.00; remaining balance - \$0.00

*Brown's Wonder-Sugar Creek Stewardship Initiative (Section 319 grant)*

Budget \$200,000.00; previously allocated \$79,587.33; remaining balance \$120,412.67

*Clean Water Indiana Grant*

Budget \$33,000.00; previously allocated \$33,734.00; remaining balance: **-\$734.00**

Lake and River Enhancement (LARE) – Awarded FY17

Budget \$30,000.00      Remaining balance: \$4,158.45

**Old Business**

A summary of House Enrolled Act 1437 – Public Law 88/Electronic Meetings and Signatures was communicated at a previous business meeting. Discussion followed. No action taken due to lack of a motion.

Cassie Hauswald, Freshwater Ecologist, The Nature Conservancy has been contacted and her schedule will allow her to speak at the annual meeting on March 1, 2022. Estimated mileage cost is \$205.00. The Board recommended an additional \$250.00 honorarium for speaking. Dustin/Matt. Motion carried.

Also discussed was whether to host an informal mentoring discussion on the topic of soil health prior to the meeting. This would be conducted as a roundtable type of discussion with trusted long-term adopters leading the discussion. This meeting would also occur at Arborwood in a smaller meeting room. Estimated timeframe would be 4-5:30 PM. Adam offered to help to facilitate the discussion for the soil health discussion. Discussion followed on whether to allow for an open bar during this portion of the meeting. The Board by consensus did not take issue with having an open bar as long as no public funds were used for the purpose and that the open bar would not carryover to the annual meeting portion of the meeting. Leah will also check to be sure that there is nothing within District Law prohibiting.

**Staff Report/Conservation Partner Report**

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

**ISDA, DSC** – Geneva Tyler – written report provided via email

**Purdue Extension** – Adam Shanks – verbal report provided

Winter programming will be focusing on a variety of financial types of topics. Reminded everyone about the December 10<sup>th</sup> Soil Health Showcase at the fairgrounds. PARP, CCH. CEU's approved.

**NRCS, District Conservationist** – Kaitlyn Fagan – verbal report provided

The enrollment deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) is December 17, 2021.

The enrollment deadline for the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is 1/28/2022. The USDA, NRCS also announced that December 17 is the first-round funding cutoff for Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry a new option available through the EQIP. Katie explained that there is not much information available yet for this new initiative.

Per the Boards prompting Katie explained funding cap's for the USDA programs.

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

Austin referenced his written report. He also specifically noted work associated with the INfield Advantage Program, signage that has been placed in the lower part of the Brown's Wonder-Sugar Creek watershed (Boone County locations) and Rule 5 reviews.

**District Administrator** – Leah Harden - written report provided

Leah reported that she recently attended a virtual session on Retention of Public Records and Electronic Records. The program was presented by Meaghan Fukanaga, Deputy Director, Records Mgmt. and Jeanine Roe, Electronic Records Archivist. With everchanging technology and how records are stored it is a topic deserving of more investigation.

Leah inquired about inviting a Resource Specialist with Indiana Invasive Species (III) network to learn more about resources available to help with the development of a Cooperative Invasive Species Management area and/or resources that might be available to landowners interested in controlling the spread of invasive plant species. A recommendation was made to invite someone from the III to speak at our January or February business meeting.

**Other Business**

None to report

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 AM

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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Ty Brown, **Member**

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Matt Kelley, **Member**