

Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District Business Meeting
Tuesday, October 5, 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	Richard Moore	Austin Green	Matt Kelley	Alyssa Holt, FSA
Dustin Johnson(by phone)	Harold Marshall	Leah Harden	David Beard	
Ty Brown		Katelyn Fagan	Matt Kelley	
Jerry Batts			Adam Shanks	

The regular business meeting was called to order at 7:43 AM by Chairman Orr.

Minutes

A motion to approve the recorded minutes of the September 7, 2021 meeting was made by Jerry. Seconded by Ty. Motion carried.

Financial Report

The financial claims were submitted for review. A motion was made to approve the financial claims beginning September 7, 2021 and ending October 4, 2021. Ty/Jerry. Motion carried.

New Business

Recent communication with the IDEM, Watershed Specialist indicates that the S. Fork Wildcat Creek Stewardship Initiative-Phase III agreement has been sent to contracting. During the regular quarterly site visit with the IDEM, Watershed Specialist staff discussed the option of requesting a hard start date for the agreement. Staff recommended a January 1 hard start date for the agreement. The reasoning is as follows: Phase II does not end until April 2022. Beginning the agreement in the Fall of 2021 is inefficient for practice implementation. Better to begin the first quarter of a new year. The cost-share program can be drafted and approved. Then promoted for spring, summer, fall implementation.

Cost-share approval

Cost-share applications for consideration:

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

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

Phase III pending execution of award. Staff recently met with Amanda Studor-Bond, IDEM Watershed Specialist, to review the SFW-SI Phase III draft agreement. A hard start state of January 1, 2022 was requested in order to manage the grant in the most efficient manner.

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

Budget \$200,000.00; previously allocated \$72,460.93; remaining balance \$127,539.07

Applicants that fall within watershed boundary within Clinton County:

Applicant #22 Cover Crops (340) 64.29 ac./\$1,928.70

Approved by roll call. Ty/Dustin (by phone), Clint. Jerry abstained. Motion carried.

Applicant #23 Determined that applicant is not currently eligible (acres applied for not in Tier 1 CLA)

Applicant #24 Cover Crops (340) 106.59 ac/\$3,197.70

Applicant #25 HUAP (1 site) \$2,000.00

Noted proximity to stream and incidence of erosion in current feed area.

Applicants #24 and #25 approved by roll call Ty, Jerry, Dustin. Motion carried

Clean Water Indiana Grant

Budget \$33,000.00; previously allocated \$24,134.00; remaining balance \$8,866.00

Applicant #11	Cover Crops (340)	160 acres/\$20.00 ac./\$3,200.00
Applicant #12	Cover Crops (340)	160 acres/\$20.00 ac./\$3,200.00
Applicant #13	Cover Crops (340)	160 acres/\$20.00 ac./\$3,200.00

It was noted that if all applicants are approved for the full amount requested that funds would exceed funds available in the amount of \$734.00. It was also noted that the Board could submit a request to the State Soil Conservation Board to transfer funds from the soil testing task to the cost-share task. A motion was made by Ty to approve applicants #11, 12 and 13. Approved by roll call (Dustin and Clint). Jerry Batts abstained from voting.

Old Business

A summary of House Enrolled Act 1437 – Public Law 88/Electronic Meetings and Signatures was communicated at a previous business meeting. Chairman Orr recommended that that the full text be sent out and allow for full consideration and input prior to any action by the Clinton SWCD governing body. Any further discussion was deferred to the next business meeting.

The nominating committee reported that Ty Brown has agreed to place his name on the ballot for a 3-year elected term for the upcoming election (at annual meeting held in March). Confirmed that the annual meeting will take place at Arborwood on the first Tuesday in March, 2022.

Clint provided a short summary of budget discussions with the County Council. The Council seemed to support retaining funding in the budget for a part-time position without having any indications from the SWCD that Indiana Assn. of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' contribution agreements would be extended for the next fiscal year. Clint also explained that the groundwork was laid for further discussions to fund a position to provide Rule 5 support as that workload has increased and is expected to continue to increase due to solar farm growth.

Staff Report/Conservation Partner Report

FSA, CED – Brittany Shepherd – written report provided

Alyssa Holt Program Support Specialist provided an update on the status of the Conservation Reserve Program workload.

New CRP enrolled: 18 contracts/38.7 acres

New NOT enrolled: 13 contracts (will move to next sign-up)/16.12 acres

Re-enrolled CRP: 28 contracts/75.38 acres

NOT re-enrolled: 8 contracts/12.5 acres

63 re-enrolls for fiscal year 2022.

AD-1026's: 39 pending

FSA 569: 8 pending

ISDA, DSC – Geneva Tyler – written report provided

See attached flyers for upcoming virtual trainings for staff and supervisors.

NRCS, District Conservationist – Kaitlyn Fagan – verbal report provided

Recently received Certified Planner status. Currently working on Conservation Stewardship modifications and payments.

Also working on Environmental Quality Incentive Program workload. USDA, NRCS, CIT is assisting with backlog of HEL/Wetland determinations. USDA, NRCS, CIT is also assisting with meeting Conservation Reserve Program workload.

New enrollment deadlines have been announced for the EQIP, ACEP and GCI.

Resource Conservation Specialist – Austin Green (written report provided)

The bi-annual landfill review was conducted on August 31, 2021. The written report was provided to the Board.

INField Advantage program updates were provided. New SWPPP reviews were received from Frito-Lay and Clinton Prairie School Corp.

A Field Day is being planned as a task requirement for the S. Fork Wildcat Creek-Phase II 319 grant. It will feature the raised beds demonstration area at the fairgrounds. Tentative date has been moved to December 10th.

District Administrator – Leah Harden - written report provided

Other Business

None to report

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 AM

Respectfully submitted by Leah Harden.

Minutes Approval

Clint Orr, **Chairman**

Dustin Johnson, **Vice Chairman**

Jerry Batts, **Member**

Ty Brown, **Member**

Matt Kelley, **Member**