

**Clinton County Soil and Water Conservation District Business Meeting
followed by Local Working Group Meeting
Tuesday, September 7, 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	Harold Marshall	Adam Shanks, Purdue
Dustin Johnson		Leah Harden	David Beard	Brittany Shephard, FSA
Ty Brown		Katelyn Fagan	Matt Kelley	

The regular business meeting was called to order at 7:37 AM by Chairman Orr.

Minutes

A motion to approve the recorded minutes of the August 3, 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 August 3, 2021 and ending September 6, 2021. Dustin/Jerry. Motion carried.

Request to purchase bare root seedlings from the IDNR State Tree Nursery to be given away for Arbor Day 2022. Dustin made a motion to purchase 300 tree seedlings. Estimated cost \$100.00- \$150.00. Jerry seconded. Motion carried. Austin provided an itemization of anticipated costs (\$175.00) for upcoming Pasture Walk Field Day (September 9th). Dustin/Jerry. Motion carried.

New Business

Annual Meeting Requirements: discussion was initiated on potential speakers and topics for the annual meeting (March 1, 2021). Jim Mosely, Pheasants Forever; Amanda or Dawn, Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area(s) and the work being done; Barry Fisher, retired NRCS; The Nature Conservancy. Leah will make contacts to determine availability and potential topics. No update from the nominating committee at this time.

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.

Tree and Shrub sale information was distributed.

FPAC requires that federal employees and others working in federal facilities be fully vaccinated. An attestation form stating vaccination status is required. If an employee chooses to remain unvaccinated they will be required to subscribe to regular testing, although it is not yet known when or how that will be rolled out. District employees must comply. Their "direct" supervisor is required to be sure that the individual employee(s) of the District are compliant with FPAC policies. The vaccination status would be considered confidential information and should not be shared with others. Clint will serve as the direct supervisor to receive and monitor District employee vaccination status and compliance with FPAC guidance.

Cost-share approval

A number of applications were submitted late Friday and there was not sufficient time to process the applications prior to the Board meeting. Applications were not presented in the format the Board is accustomed to reviewing for consideration and approval. Due to this fact a motion was made to approve applications as presented based on the applicant’s eligibility once the Resource Conservation Specialist fully processes and reviews the applications. Dustin/Jerry. Motion carried.

Cost-share applications for consideration:

S. Fork Wildcat Stewardship Initiative – Phase II (Section 319 grant) Phase III pending execution of award.

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

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

Budget \$200,000.00; previously allocated \$52,294.03; remaining balance \$147,705.97

Boone County staff submitted 7 applications (pending completion of additional paperwork). Collectively the seven applicants are applying 578.25 acres of cover crops (practice code 340). The total cost-share allocation would be \$17,347.50.

Clinton County

Applicant #14 Cover Crops (340) 170.22 ac./\$5,100.00

Clean Water Indiana Grant

Budget \$33,000.00; previously allocated \$4,752.00; remaining balance \$31,448.00

Applicant #8 Cover Crops (340) 30.11 acres/\$20.00 ac./\$602.20

Applicant #9 Cover Crops (340) 160 acres/\$20.00 ac./\$3,200.00

Applicant #10 Cover Crops (340) 160 acres/\$20.00 ac./\$3,200.00

A motion was made to approve. Jerry/Ty. Motion carried. Dustin Johnson 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.

Clint provided a short summary of budget discussions with the County Council. The budget hearings will again be held on September 14th and/or 15th if there are any considerations that remain to be discussed with department heads.

Grant Updates

S. Fork Wildcat Stewardship Initiative Phase III– expected that contract for Phase III will be sent out in June or July. Recently received notification that it will now likely be November.

Brown’s Wonder-Sugar Creek – several pending applications should be complete and ready for board consideration at the September business meeting. Two previously approved applications (Boone) should be submitting invoices soon to request reimbursement.

Clean Water Indiana – a draft application and process for applying for soil testing was sent out to the board, staff and partners for review and comment. Pending no further comment the expansion of the soil testing cost-share program will be adopted.

Staff Report/Conservation Partner Report

FSA, CED – Brittany Shepherd – written report provided

Brittany referred to written report to update the Board on the status of pending new offers and pending signed re-enrolls for the Conservation Reserve Program (Clinton County). Also reported on HELC/Wetland Compliance and COVID updates for federal offices.

ISDA, DSC – Geneva Tyler – written report provided

Purdue Extension, AgNR Educator – Adam Shanks – no updates at this time

NRCS, District Conservationist – Kaitlyn Fagan – verbal report provided

Resource Conservation Specialist – Austin Green (written report provided)

The bi-annual landfill review was conducted on August 31, 2021. Jerry Jackson, IDEM accompanied Austin and landfill representatives for the review. Offsite sedimentation seems to have been resolved after plugging the tile. Once completed, the review will be sent to the appropriate individuals.

INField Advantage – stalk sampling on enrolled fields scheduled for next week. Trevor Laureys will be the Point of Contact for INFA until they fill the vacant position of coordinator.

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. A tentative date is December 7th (will require that the Board meeting date be changed to the following week – December 14th). Updates on the raised beds were provided: Austin coordinated the donation of cover crop seed by the Urban Soil Health Program for the demonstration beds. It has been planted into the standing corn and soybeans.

Rule 5 – two new plans have been submitted and reviewed: Frankfort Police Department and AccuLevel.

District Administrator – Leah Harden - written report provided

Other Business

Local Working Group

This District is required to convene the Local Working Group (LWG) to prioritize natural resource concerns for the County. The results of that prioritization are sent to the State Technical Committee and will be taken into consideration as they develop the EQIP and CSP programs for the new fiscal year (FY2022). After a short break the Board re-convened to hold the Local Working Group meeting beginning at 8:30 AM. Minutes of the LWG meeting were recorded separately.

Respectfully submitted by Leah Harden.

Minutes Approval

Clint Orr, **Chairman**

Dustin Johnson, **Vice Chairman**

Jerry Batts, **Member**

Ty Brown, **Member**

Matt Kelley, **Member**