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**Wells County Soil & Water Conservation District**  
**117 W. Harvest Road • Bluffton, IN 46714**  
**Phone (260) 824-0624 ext. 3**

**SWCD MEETING MINUTES – December 12, 2017**

The Wells Co. SWCD met Dec. 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the NRCS/SWCD office at 117 West Harvest Road, Bluffton, IN. Supervisors present were: Jarrod Kunkel, Dale Thomas & Dave Ramseyer. Others present were Lynne Huffman; SWCD District Coordinator, Stacia Henderson; Upper Wabash River Basin Commission Secretary, Roger Shearer; Wells County Purdue Extension & Hodge Patel: State Director for Senator Joe Donnelly, Minutes from the November 14, 2017 meeting were presented. Dave Ramseyer made a motion to accept the minutes. Jarrod Kunkel seconded. The treasurer's report ending December 8, 2017 was presented. Jarrod Kunkel made a motion to accept the report, Dave Ramseyer seconded, the motion carried.

**Old Business:** Annual Meeting Update – Need to discuss Caterer and Giveaways. Lynne presented 4 different menus from area caterers. After discussion, Dave Ramseyer made a motion to use BUM Catering. They have been our caterer for the last couple years. They do a great job and all their profits go to scholarships for the teen in the area. Lynne also presented a couple of items previously discussed as giveaways. After discussion, Dave Ramseyer made a motion to select the ice scrapers. Going with the theme of “weather” this seemed a good fit.

**New Business:** *Annual Conference Scholarship*– Lynne completed an application for annual conference scholarship for Kevin Brickley. Lynne was happy to report that Kevin was selected for a full conference scholarship as well as 2 nights stay at the downtown Marriott. *Annual Poster Contest*- Lynne has sent the invitations out to all the fourth grade teachers in our county. As of today, she has heard back from 1 teacher. We will need at least 2 schools in order to have a contest. Lynne will follow up with teachers next week to determine if we will have a contest. In years past, we have given a “participation gift” to each student who participates. The past 2 years we have given cups. Dave Ramseyer made a motion to order cups if we are having the contest. Jarrod Kunkel seconded. *January Meeting date change* – The meeting in January will need to be changed as Lynne, Kevin and Dale will be at annual conference. After discussion, we will move the meeting to January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

**Conservation Application:** Liz Ortiz has taken a detail in Puerto Rico for 90 days to help after the Hurricane. We have an acting District Conservationist from Adams County, Brian Musser. Sara Day, the District Conservationist from Huntington County is also helping to get the first round of EQIP applications processed as well as with Wetland/HEL determinations.

**Reports:** *Upper Wabash River Basin Commission* – All money is allocated and the grant coming to an end. The final report will be due to IDEM by Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>. All bills from producers have been received. They did apply for and received a LARE grant (Lake and River Enhancement) for \$40,000 to complete a feasibility study on the Wabash River from the Ohio line to Bluffton. After that is completed, they will apply for an implementation Grant. The feasibility study is to pick at least 6 sites that require assistance. *CWI 2016 Wabash*–Money all allocated. Will hold a field day in the spring. *CWI 2017 Wabash with Huntington County* – Received applications totaling \$23,126.60. *CWI 2017 with Adams County* – Received several applications for Gypsum and Cover Crops totaling approximately \$26,000. Awaiting bills from producers. Sandy Voglewede from Decatur SWCD met with Lynne to discuss a field day in the Spring. March 14<sup>th</sup> is the date set. It will be held on the Dean Tonner farm on the Adams/Wells County line. More information to come. *Rule 5-* Berne Apparel in Ossian is expanding their manufacturing facility.

**Other Business: Advertising** – The News-Banner approached us about sponsoring a calendar that will be distributed to everyone in Wells County. We could sponsor a month for \$649.00 After discussion, the supervisors thought that would not be the best use of our money *2018 Supervisors* –Kevin Brickley suggested we run an ad to see if we had any interest. Lynne ran that in the News Banner and Ossian Journal. No one has come forward. We will have Leann Nash on the ballot and ask for nomination from the floor *Speaker/Field Day* – Lynne was approached by Wayne Reinhard about a speaker that he had heard in Lagrange this fall. His name is Dr. Allen Williams. He is a “specialist” in Grass Fed Beef. He would like to have him in the county and would help to pay for him coming. Lynne contacted Dr. Williams. He charges \$1500 + travel expenses. Huntington County and Adams County were willing to chip in. After discussion, the Supervisors don’t think we have enough pastured cow farmers in the county to warrant that expense. Lynne will notify Mr. Reinhard. *Senator Donnelly* –Mr. Patel wanted us to know that Senator Donnelly and himself are available at any time to help with any issues that they can. Senator Donnelly is a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee and supports Agriculture. He was just recently recognized as the 2<sup>nd</sup> most bipartisan Senator since 1993. We thanked Mr. Patel for taking the time to stop by and visit us. *January Mtg Date* – Need to move the January meeting date. After discussion, we will move our day from Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> to Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Claim forms were signed, Jarrod made a motion to adjourn, Dave seconded. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be Jan. 10<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne A. Huffman  
 District Coordinator  
 Wells Co. SWCD

Minutes Approved:

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