



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

SWCD MEETING MINUTES – September 12, 2017

The Wells Co. SWCD met Sept. 12, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. at the NRCS/SWCD office at 117 West Harvest Road, Bluffton, IN. Supervisors present were: Leann Nash, Jarrod Kunkel & Dale Thomas. Others present were Lynne Huffman; SWCD District Coordinator, Dave Lefforge; ISDA District Support Specialist, Liz Ortiz; NRCS Acting District Conservationist, Stacia Henderson; Upper Wabash River Basin Commission Financial Clerk. Minutes from the August 8, 2017 meeting were presented. Dale Thomas made a motion to accept the minutes. Jarrod Kunkel seconded. The treasurer's report ending September 8, 2017 was presented. Dale Thomas made a motion to accept the report, Jarrod Kunkel seconded, the motion carried.

Old Business: *New Board Member Welcome* – Newest member, Jarrod Kunkel was welcomed to the board of Supervisors. *Supervisor Election* – New Supervisor elections were opened to replace Chad Fiechter as Chairman. After discussion, Dale Thomas made a motion to nominate Leann Nash as Chairman and Kevin Brickley as Vice Chairman. Jarrod Kunkel seconded. The motion carried. *2018 Supervisors* – It is time to look at supervisor positions for 2018. Dale Thomas (appointed) and Leann Nash (Elected) both have terms ending in 2017. Both were encouraged to determine if they want to continue on the board or if not, to be thinking about replacements.

New Business: *Tree Pick Up* – Tree pick up date is September 20th. Will need to be at nursery at 8am. Dale Thomas volunteered to be our pick up person. *CWI Cost Share Application* – Lynne presented the applicants for cost share so far this year. As of today, she has \$15,521.30 allocated of the \$22,500 that Wells County has to spend from 2017-2019. Lynne asked what the board would like to do. After discussion, Lynne will send a spreadsheet of each application with the ranking numbers, the board will look over and make a recommendation.

Conservation Application: Liz Ortiz reported the following: Wells County NRCS received 3 CSP applications and all 3 were obligated. They also received 16 EQIP applications and all were approved. There are currently 32 active EQIP contracts. There are currently 57 CRP active contracts. We continue to receive HEL/Wetland Determinations. Wells County had a goal in 2017 to contract 2750 acres. We actually contracted 3232.

Reports: *Upper Wabash River Basin Commission* – River Clean Up is scheduled for this Saturday, Sept. 15th at 9am. Meet at the White Bridge. Also applied for and received a LARE grant for \$50,000 to study stream bank Erosion on the Wabash. This proposal will begin hopefully by year end. *CWI 2016 Wabash*–Money all allocated. Dale Thomas working with seed supplier to get the cover crop plot seeded with Cereal Rye/Rape seed. *CWI 2017 Wabash with Huntington County* – Received applications totaling \$15,521.30. Will be going over these with the board. *CWI 2017 with Adams County* – Received several applications for Gypsum and Cover Crops totaling approximately \$26,000. *Rule 5-* Received 2, 1 for additional manure storage at a 1 turned out to be incorrect and needed different permitting.

Other Business: *SWCD Educational Grant* – Ossian Elementary School is requesting \$800 to continue their Naturally Speaking programs. This program impacts nearly 600 student in K-5 and will enhance their mastery of Indiana State Standards in Science through enrichment instruction delivered during the school day. Dale Thomas made a motion to approve the application and fund the entire \$800. Noting this would be impact a

large number of students and that is what this grant is to be used for. Jarrod Kunkel seconded, the motion carried. *Conference Request* – Lynne asked for permission to attend the IDEA (Indiana District Employees Association) conference on October 11-12 in Lafayette. Wells County’s name was drawn last year to receive free conference admission, only the hotel will be needed. Dale Thomas made a motion to allow Lynne to attend, Jarrod Kunkel seconded, motion carried. Lynne also asked for permission to attend the annual conference in Indianapolis January 8-9th. It has been noted that rooms are filling up fast. Dale Thomas made a motion to allow Lynne to attend and book a room. Jarrod Kunkel seconded, motion carried. Lynne encourage the board if anyone else would like to attend, reservations need to be made.

Claim forms were signed, Dale made a motion to adjourn, Jarrod seconded. Meeting adjourned. Next meeting will be Oct. 10th at 6pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynne A. Huffman
District Coordinator
Wells Co. SWCD

Minutes Approved:

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_____/_____
_____ Date: _____