

MINUTES

Wednesday, August 20, 2019



IN ATTENDANCE:

Supervisors: Whitney Schlegel, Dallas Conder, Georgia Davis, Keith McConnell and Ryan Conway

Staff: Martha Miller and Cara Bergschneider

Guests: None

REGULAR BUSINESS

Motion by GD to approve the July 2019 minutes as presented | 2nd by WS | Motion Passed *ok*

Motion by RC to approve financials as presented and pay claims ~~3114-3129~~ | 2nd by WS | Motion Passed

3114-3129 word

NRCS Update

The long awaited Soil Health Trailer is finally complete and being housed at the Vincennes Service Center. The trailer is outfitted with a pull-out rainfall simulator, soil demonstrations, side mounted screen, surround sound on all 4 sides of the trailer, awnings, etc. The goal of the trailer is to have it out at educational events as much as possible. A priority will be given to events with a large amount of attendees, farmer-focused audiences and events in the SW Area. At least for the first 6-12 months it is required that a member of the soil health team accompany the trailer to events. I have requested the trailer for the Peden Children's Farm Festival and was told that a decision will be reached at the next soil health meeting on 8/29.

The NRCS Pathway Intern, Brittany Kent, has completed her summer internship. She did an excellent job and will be continuing with the Pathway Program as an engineer.

Amy Spalding, the NWTF Forester, has started her employment and is already providing valuable knowledge of forestland conservation practices and producing much-needed forest management plans to customers. We are thrilled to have her in the office and already see the benefit of the partnership between NRCS and NWTF.

A newspaper article in the Herald Times on monarch habitat funding through CSP has generated over 30 contacts with customers interested in the program. The majority of the customers will be better suited for EQIP and a couple for the SWCD mini-grant program. I anticipate a large amount of EQIP applications that will fall in the wildlife funding pool for 2020 funding.

I will not be leading the Local Working Group this year as I may apply for a NRCS program. Christina Gates, the new DC for Greene Co, has offered to serve as the NRCS representative. Amy Spalding will also be at the Local Work Group.

EQIP Disaster program received \$900,000 in Indiana for cover crop planting in prevented planting fields due to the heavy and prolonged spring rains. Monroe and Brown Counties did not receive any applications. All of the producers that I am aware of who planted cover crops in prevented planted fields got their cover crops in the ground in June. Acres that were already planted to cover crops were not eligible for the program; these farmers missed out on potential funding but, in my opinion, they are better off because they do not have the extreme weed issues that other producers have who let their fields lay idle over the growing season. By having cover crops planted in June, these producers have also been capturing nutrients, building organic matter, feeding their microbial populations, keeping their soil temperatures lower and reducing the risk of erosion.

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People of Monroe County Videos: Becca Vaughan has agreed to do 5 more videos for us remotely at a cost of \$250 each. Motion by GD to pay Becca Vaughn \$1250 for 5 more videos and pay from PSS Fund Line / 2nd by RC / Motion Passed

Mini Grants: Motion by RC to approve Josh McClary mini grant request / 2nd by GD / Motion Passed

W4TL Event: There will be an IU Luncheon event on Sept. 19 at SPEA. Cara will be in attendance as a Resource Specialist for the Soil Health component.

District Policy Manual: Suspended until the September meeting

Soil Health Mini Series: Martha is working with County Parks and we will co-host a soil health mini work shop in late fall. WS offered a suggestion of rewording on flyer to "\$10 includes all 3 sessions". Request to pay each speaker \$50 Motion by RC to pay each speaker \$50 / 2nd by GD / Motion Passed

Woodland Steward Newsletter Support: Motion by KM to pay \$500 to Indiana Woodland Stewards to support the printing of the quarterly newsletter / 2nd by RC / Motion Passed **This was due to the fact that we were not asked for any support in 2019 and this will make up for that.

Spring Tree Give Away: Motion by WS to purchase Persimmon and Pawpaw trees and supplies up to a maximum of \$250 for the spring tree give away 2020 / 2nd by RC / Motion Passed

Local Workgroup Survey: Martha to add a No Opinion option on the survey before sending it out.

Minutes approved by the board on September 17, 2019

Dallas Conder
Ryan Conway

Whitney Schlegel
Georgia Davis