 Wayne County Soil and Water Conservation District 823 S. Round Barn Rd., Suite 1, Richmond, Indiana 47374

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Minutes

Board of Supervisors

8:00 am, May 2, 2017

Members present: Others Present:

Eric Snyder, Chairperson Raquel Baker, District Technician

Cathy Becker, Vice-Chairperson LuAnne Holeva, Conservation Ed Coordinator

Steve Hayes, Jr., Secretary Mindy Jordan, District Coordinator/Treasurer

Brad Bihl, Member Cara Tegeler, Watershed Coordinator

Scott McCarty, Member Brenda Gettinger, Resource Con., ISDA

 Chris Beeson, WC Council

 Cody Sankey, Producer

 Jason Ward, Producer

 Dale Howard, Producer

 Tony Gilliam, WC Council

 Gary Saunders, WC Council

 Pete Zalaski, WC Council

 Michael Birchler, NRCS

**Open Meeting:** Eric Snyder calls the meeting to order at 8:01am.

Eric Snyder welcomes and thanks guests that have taken time from their day to attend this board meeting. Eric asks that everyone introduce themselves and their position. He explains to the Wayne County Council that are present more about the Watershed Coordinator’s position and that in June he will be asking to make this position a full time position through Wayne County to help alleviate turn over (Gary Saunders joins the meeting) in this position, answer any questions about the position (Pete Zalaski joins the meeting) before taking this request once again to the County at budget hearing time. Eric Snyder opens the floor for the producers to speak. Jason Ward speaks on his participation with the Watershed currently using heavy use areas and riparian buffer. Jason states that without the program they wouldn’t have been able to complete these practices. Jason explains that working with Zach was great to deal with, but adjustment period took him six months – one year for Zach to get familiar with the needs, who we are, the area and understanding of the Ward’s and now faced with building a rapport and understand again now with Cara will take time and this time holds work up. (Michael Birchler joins the meeting) Dale Howard explains that in the Great Lakes they have done studies where these best managent practices have been used, collected the data and then stopped using the practices. The issues reoccurred every time showing that these management practice do work and that it had to convince folks that these management practices are worth it. As a tax payer in Wayne County Mr. Howard states that he would like to see this position be all that it can be. Cody Sankey introduces himself to the meeting as a resident who lives in northwest Wayne County on the White Water River. Cross fencing, inter-seeding pasture, heavy-use pad, things that allows us to better manage our livestock cattle and our land that prevent run off, erosion things that are very important. When money gets tight easiest thing to cut is the stuff that we deem in the short term most irrelevant and that most times is conservation practices. So without the help and support from this position these things go undone. From the stand point of funding a position full-time is stability. Someone you know, knows you your needs, the land and is just a phone call away. This office is lacking that, and the board is working to give this position that stability it needs. And without that stability the position will not be successful. And the opportunity to fund such a position from just the stand point of just benefits would be most beneficial to the land owners of Wayne County. As a producer of this county and someone who has seen first-hand the benefits of this program that going forward to put some thought and effort into trying to keep this position in stability and moving in a positive direction and that stability will allow someone to set up some roots and build up the producers of Wayne County. Cathy Becker informs the group that this position is grant funded and we are asking that Wayne County fund the benefit package. Chris Beeson asks if this is how the position has always been, Mindy Jordan confirms that it has always been a 1099 position. Cathy Becker and Eric Snyder run-through all of the individuals who have been in this position, collectively they count five different watershed coordinator’s since Cathy has been affiliated with the Soil & Water Conservation District. Chris Beeson asks where the money is coming from. Eric Snyder replies that it is a State funded grant. Mindy Jordan explains that the board is asking the county accept this position as a full time county position only paying for the benefits, that the coordinator will still write the grants and submit the claims to the State of Indiana, when the payment is receive from the State, a check would be cut from our account and given to the auditor’s office to reimburse the county for the wages that have been paid. Ensuring that the only cost to the county will be the employer’s portion of benefits. Michael Birchler makes comment that he can help kick land owners over to Cara to assist in building up her participation within the 319 grant. Steve Hayes Jr. adds that with incentive programs having the proper guidelines and doing the right thing will make it a successful one. Mr. Gillam asked to receive the total for the benefit package sent to him. Mr. Beeson states he feels that the current salary of $30,000.00 - $36,000.00 with benefits isn’t enough to retain someone. LuAnne Holeva shares her tenure of employment for Wayne County of 15 years and the fact that it took her 10 years to catch back up to the salary she once was making within the school system. With that statement she added that some people indeed take on position for passion and or a calling. With that, Eric Snyder thanks everyone for their time and attendance for this discussion on the watershed coordinator.

**Meeting Minutes:**  Steven Hayes Jr. motions to approve the April 2017 meeting minutes with two corrections. Cathy Becker seconds the motion. Minutes approved.

**Financial Report:** April monthly reports were passed out for the board to view. Mindy Jordan brings up that she has added a detail report as well as a profit & loss report this month. Board will table the finances to allow time for Mindy to get with Quick Books, again and see why transfers are being labeled as expenditures. Scott McCarthy notes that he isn’t concerned with what is being done, but how it is being labeled within Quick Books. Steven Hayes Jr. motions to accept the claims and table the finances until next month, Cathy Becker seconds. Motion passed.

**New Business:** Mindy Jordan ask the board for River Friendly Farmer Award nominees for 2017. The board would like to nominate Dwayne Crownover. Motioned by Steven Hayes Jr. and second by Cathy Becker. Motioned passed. Mindy stated she will get in touch with him and file the appropriate paperwork by the June 16, 2017 deadline. Mindy Jordan requests the board to begin thinking of guest speakers for the next annual meeting. Steven Hayes Jr. mention the topic of pollinators. Speaker mentioned was Scott Caldwell, however, nothing was decided at this time. Mindy Jordan informed the group that the Chips order was in. LuAnne Holeva reminded the group of the May 13, 2017 Tox-A-Way Day and asked for volunteers. She is hopeful to use up the money left in the grant.

**Action Items:** Steven Hayes Jr. Motions to pay them and Cathy Becker seconds. Motion passed. Cathy Becker brings up the SWCD 5 year business plan and states we have been work along with the plan. Cathy Becker brings up that the fact that the supervisor’s name tags look a little tacky and she would like for the supervisors to have the same name tag as staff. Mindy Jordan notes that they (staff name tags) are $15.20 each. Eric Snyder speaks of the turn-over and the cost involved. Raquel Baker asks the board about attending the Grazing Clinic Aug 16 & 17, 2017 down at Clifty Falls State Park and the need of $165.00 to attend. Brad Bihl motioned to approve and Steven Hayes Jr. seconds. Motion passed. Cara Tegeler request to attend the Conservation Cropping workshop on May 17, 2017 in the amount of $125.00. Cathy Becker motion and Brad Bihl second. Motion passed. Mindy Jordan asks the board about the $2,000.00 dues owed to IASWCD for 2017. Steven Hayes motions to pay dues and Cathy Becker seconds. Motion passed. LuAnne Holeva brings up the table cloths are looking quite worn and suggests the purchase of runners. LuAnne will looking to other companies for pricing to bring back to the board.

**Monthly Reports:**

**District Coordinator Report:**

Mindy Jordan reports

**District Conservationist:**

Michael Birchler reports

**Watershed Coordinator’s Report:**

Cara Tegeler reports

**Technician Report:**

Raquel Baker reports

**Educator’s Report:**

LuAnne Holeva reports

Scott McCarty motions to adjourn the meeting at 9:57am, second by Steve Hayes Jr. Meeting adjourns.

Minutes recorded and submitted by Mindy Jordan.

 Minutes approved: Dated: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ X\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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