

# ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 2024

**Present:** Supervisors: *Alex Wait, Darrell Shover, Dale Leer, Keith Miller, Dean Rink*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark*; Associates: *Tom Perry*; Acting NRCS: *Troy Manges*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst*.

**Absent:** Associates: David Bontrager, Gary Kauf

fman, Tom Kercher; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker; District Support Specialist: Sandra Hoffarth; Purdue Extension: Crystal Van Pelt;

The board meeting was called to order by Alex Wait at 5:30 pm.

The March 18, 2024, board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Leer/Miller*

## **Agency Reports:**

### **NRCS:**

*Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)*

- 2 Contracts have been obligated.
- 2 applications have been approved.
- 2 applications have been preapproved.

*Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)*

- Working on 1 CRP application

*Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP2018)*

- Working on 3 new applications
- Working on modifying 1 contract.

*Wetland Reserve Easement (WRE)*

*Wetland/HEL Determinations:*

- Working on 30 HELC Determinations
- Working on 2 WC Determinations

*Meetings or Trainings:*

*Several Teams Trainings*

*Elkhart County SWCD Annual Meeting*

*Completed the 2024 Conservation Transect*

***Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners – Troy Manges went over the Civil Rights and Alex Wait, Board Chairman signed the form.***

### **ISDA:**

Tillage Transect is complete

### **County Surveyor:**

Not in attendance

### **Extension:**

Not in attendance

**District Business:**

\*Pay Dirt Workshop: August 22<sup>nd</sup> - The Hess Farm, 2-3 food trucks, the speakers will be the sponsors, 3-4 tents will be set up, Agronomic Solutions, LLC (Melissa Lehman) will do manure samples.

\*Tree Sale Update: 103 orders/\$12,964.89 total Master Gardener's proceeds \$1,676.20 – SWCD \$2,514.29

\*SWAMP Projects: There are a few projects out there waiting to be processed.

\*General Permit Updates: 2<sup>nd</sup> Amazon building is going up and all native planting. There are school projects going in, he has been out the last 2 weeks doing inspections.

\*Education Updates: Native Planting Elkhart community Schools/IMN class is ¾ full, Mud is Fun Soils Training.

**Financial Business:**

The vehicle log was signed.

The Gateway Reports have been uploaded and reviewed by the Board.

The monthly financial reports were approved on a motion by *Rink/Shover*

Claims for the following were signed: Mary Hesser (\$250.00 – Mileage for picking up trees); INterra Credit Union District (\$1,596.11 – Tree Sale Supplies/Pay Dirt Expenses/Notary License Renewal/PDH Credits/Annual Meeting Expenses); INterra Credit Union County (\$900.99 – Postage/Special Projects/Office Supplies/Truck Wash/Website Hosting/Square Terminal); Michiana Master Gardeners Assn. (\$1,676.20 – Tree Sale Proceeds); Common Ground Distributors (\$723.75 – 2024 IMN Class Books).

The board meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM *Shover/Miller*

**Next Board Meeting: May 20, 2024 - 5:30 pm**  
**SWCD Office**  
**59358 County Road 7 Elkhart, IN 46517**

**SWCD Board Chairman**  
**Alex Wait**

**SWCD Board Vice Chairman**  
**Darrell Shover**

**SWCD Board Member**  
**Dale Leer**

**SWCD Board Member**  
**Keith Miller**

**SWCD Board Member**  
**Dean Rink**

**Recording Secretary**  
**Lora L Atkins**