

# ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

June 17, 2024

**Present:** Supervisors: *Alex Wait, Darrell Shover, Dale Leer, Keith Miller, Dean Rink*; Staff: *Jim Hess, Lora Atkins, Todd Clark, Jenna Wait*; Associates: *Tom Kercher*; Acting NRCS: *Jorge Loyozza*; ISDA Support Specialist: *Heath Hurst, Dennis Badke*.

**Absent:** Associates: David Bontrager, Gary Kauffman, Tom Perry; Elkhart County Surveyor: Phil Barker; District Support Specialist: Sandra Hoffarth; Purdue Extension: Robert Kelly.

The board meeting was called to order by Alex Wait at 5:35 pm.

The April 15, 2024, board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by *Shover/Rink*

## **Agency Reports:**

### **NRCS: (Troy's last Report)**

*Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)*

*-2 Contracts have been obligated.*

*-2 applications have been approved.*

*Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)*

*-Working on 1 CRP application*

*Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP2018)*

*-1 application is pre-approved*

*-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 Monthly Board Meeting*

*Joint FSA/NRCS HEL/WC training*

***6 EQIP/5 CRP/1 WRE applications, Jorge will be going to Iowa for training during Fair in July***

### **ISDA:**

Summer Summits are August 20<sup>th</sup> 6-8 pm Columbia City

### **County Surveyor:**

Not in attendance

### **Extension:**

Not in attendance

## **District Business:**

\*Pay Dirt IN-Field: August 22<sup>nd</sup> - The Hess Farm, 2-3 food trucks, 2-3 tents, vendors will set up Jim is working with Melissa Lehman. We will have our Locally led meeting at the same time, since we are hoping to get more people to attend, SWAMP program still applies.

\*River Friendly Farmer Award: Jim submitted for David Hess as the recipient.

\*319 Grant NOI Submittal: Jim submitted the NOI on June 1<sup>st</sup>

\*Native Plant Sale: Deadline to order is July 26<sup>th</sup>, we passed out flyer's orders will be able to be picked up at our office mid-September.

\*IASWCD Dues: \$5000 Dues were approved to be paid now *Shover/Miller*

\*SWAMP Projects: Jim drove around to look at termination of crops.

\*General Permit Updates: "Award of Excellence" was awarded to Elkhart County SWCD for Pay Dirt. Elkhart County Solar project 800 ac at State Road 13, informational packs were passed around.

\*SJRBC Symposium Discussion: Covered Bridge County Park (Three Rivers, MI) Matt Meersman

\*Education Updates: Worms/Native plants/Fairfield Ag Day/IMN Class is under way/HRW/ARS

\*2025 Budget Approval: The board approved Soil & Water/Stormwater 2025 Budgets *Rink/Shover*

\*INAFSM Dues: Jim Hess & Todd Clark have dues at \$50.00 ea. The board approved *Miller/Leer*

\*Contracted work for Dennis Badke: Dennis is going to help Todd with inspections, and we will pay him like we do the board in a per diem.

\*Stormwater Technician: Elijah Stoltzfus from Goshen College could possibly work with Jenna this summer, doing data entry working with our SWAMP.

## **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 *Shover/Miller*

Claims for the following were signed: Indiana MS4 Partnership (\$300.00 – HRW Training/IDEM Workshop); INterra Credit Union (\$1676.36 – Tree Sale Expense/Pay Dirt Expense/2024 IMN Supplies); INterra Credit Union (\$459.43 – Postage/Education Supplies/Vehicle Repair & Wash); Lydia Martin (\$300.00 – Refund of IMN Class Registration); Elkhart County 4-H Fairgrounds (\$1,350.00 – 2025 Tree Sale Deposit); Common Ground Distributors (\$413.57 – IMN Class Books); INterra Credit Union (\$97.23 – IMN Class supplies); INterra Credit Union (\$1953.60 – Postage/Education supplies/Vehicle Repair & Wash/Office Supplies/MS4 Annual Mtg/Ed & Conference cost).

The board meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM *Leer/Rink*

**Next Board Meeting: July 15, 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**