

ELKHART COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING MINUTES

March 18, 2024

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

Absent: Supervisors: Dale Leer; Associates: David Bontrager, Gary Kaufman; 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 February 19, 2024, board meeting minutes was approved on a motion by ***Rink/Shover***

Agency Reports:

NRCS: - Not in Attendance

Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)

-4 applications have been submitted for QA.

-2 more applications have been preapproved.

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

-Submitted a suitability/feasibility report to FSA for 1 new 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 Pay Dirt Conference

Elkhart County SWCD Annual Meeting

ISDA:

CREP deadline has been extended to Oct 1st. Tillage Transect is set for Mar 27th for Elkhart County.

County Surveyor:

Not in attendance

Extension:

Not in attendance

District Business:

- *Pay Dirt Workshop: There were 640 in attendance over 3 days, Jenna sent out a survey and we have received 65 response so far.
- *SWCD Annual Meeting: We had 88 people in attendance, a great end to the Pay Dirt Workshop!
- *CWI Grant: Jim talked about our meeting with DSS Sandra Hoffarth.
- *Tree Sale Order/Pick Up: We have 103 order's and over \$10,000 in sales, Wednesday is setup.
- *MS4 Annual Conference Registration: Jim/Todd/Jenna Registered for the MS4 Annual Conference in Indianapolis The board approved up to \$1,555 for all 3 – ***Shover/Miller***
- *SWAMP Projects: We have 2 projects waiting to be approved.
- *General Permit Updates: City of Goshen – New Wellfield, Northwood HS & MS Athletic Renovations
- *Education Updates: IMN registrations opening soon!

Financial Business:

The vehicle log was signed.

The rubber stamp was not used.

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

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

Claims for the following were signed: INterra Credit Union District (\$1,307.17 – Annual Meeting Paper/Pay Dirt Expenses); INterra Credit Union County (\$1,681.67 – Postage/Special Projects/Ed & Conference/Parking/Website Hosting); IDEA (\$100.00 – 2024 IDEA Dues); Bill's Barbeque & Seafood (\$5,473.20 – Catering for Pay Dirt Workshop); MidCountry Media, Inc (\$393.30 – Display Ad for Pay Dirt Workshop); Courtney Woodall (\$254.38 – Shipping for Promotional Items); Sweet Graphics, LLC (\$128.40 – Decals for Workshop); John Heiliger (\$500.00 – Refund of Sponsorship); Elkhart County 4-H Ag & Expo (\$80.00 – Signs for Workshop); Trent Nichols (\$68.00 – Refund for tree's accidentally ordered); Kercher's Produce (\$150.00 – Fancy Fruit for Workshop); The Farmer's Exchange (\$ 306.40 – Advertising for Workshop); First Place Trophy (\$358.98 – 2023 Annual Meeting); LaGwana (\$705.60 – Advertising for Pay Dirt Workshop); Noaval, LLC (\$414.00 – Donuts at the Workshop); Dal-Mar Catering (\$2,439.00 – Pay Dirt Breakfast & Annual Meeting Dinner); James Hess (\$213.50 – Pay Dirt Expenses); Richard L Dewitt (\$722.89 – Speaker Expenses); Tiller Group, Inc – (\$124.92 – Speaker Hotel); NPDES Training Institute (\$2,000.00 – Training Seminar); Alpha Nurseries, Inc (\$2,470.19 – 2024 Tree Sale – Final Invoice); Engel's Nursery, Inc – (\$122.50 - 2024 Tree Sale – Final Invoice); Hensler Nursery, Inc – (\$703.75 - 2024 Tree Sale – Final Invoice); Elkhart County 4-H Dairy Advisory (\$500.00 – Ice cream mix, set-up – Pay Dirt Workshop).

The board meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM ***Wait/Shover***

Next Board Meeting: April 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