

The Richland Soil & Water Conservation District held their **Regular December Board Meeting** on the 11<sup>th</sup>, 2008 at 7:00 p.m. located at 1495 West Longview Ave. Mansfield, Ohio.

Jerry Schumacher called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the following in attendance, Bob Winbigler, Charles Winger, John Hildreth, Bonnie Thomas, Clark Hutson and Jason Ruhl.

**Secretaries Report** – Winbigler moved to accept November’s minutes. Winger seconded the motion. Winbigler aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 3-0.

**Financials** – Winger motioned to accept December Special Fund of 18 transactions totaling \$5,083.90, and the November District Fund of 5 transactions totaling \$5,073.99 (check #4323- #4327 and to accept CPA’s November report as printed. Winbigler seconded the motion. Winbigler aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 3-0.

### **Old Business-**

**2009 Budget-** Hildreth reported there are no numbers as of yet, this report is a continuation from last months meeting. Hildreth stated Thomas heard the county commissioners need to cut the budget by 1.9 ml. Hildreth discussed the 2008 stormwater funds and how the original intent of the district returning the funds was for the purpose of receiving state match on those funds. This has not happened for several years. Hildreth also reported he discussed the possibility of reduced hours in 2009 with staff. Clark Hutson reported an estimated 25% reduction in state match. He suggests using a projection of 75% state match when figuring the 2009 budget. The state will be subtracting the difference in 2008 county funds received from what the county commissioners promised from the 2009 state match.

Winbigler moved to ask the county commissioners to allow the district to keep the 2008 stormwater funds. Winger seconded the motion. Winbigler aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 3-0.

### **New Business-**

**Rural Drainage & Ohio’s Water Quality Rules-** Hildreth reviewed a letter from ODNR and a handout on Rural Drainage Systems with the Board. Hildreth encouraged the Board to attend sessions at the Columbus Meeting to make comment on pending EPA recommendations.

Cook and Weirick arrived at 7:45 pm.

**Log Jam Policy-** Hildreth requested the Board review the policy he created. Winbigler suggested county residents be made aware of the policy. After discussion, Hildreth will make revisions and present at the January Board Meeting.

**Farm Bill-** No Conservation Plans Approved

### **Reports**

**2010 Environthon-** Hildreth reported the 2010 Environthon will be hosted in Richland County. The district will be working with the Fish & Game club along with coordinating the use of the dorms at the college.

**NRCS-** Jason Ruhl reported on the current audit. Since last Board Meeting he was asked to contact the chair and District Administrator and ask for assistance in the audit process where they can. Jason reported he and John discussed the areas where the district could help. Jerry agreed the district would assist where ever they could. The audit was brought on

by NRCS. They hired a firm to do an audit. The nationwide report indicated there were inconsistencies across the state. Each file needs to be brought up to par by the end of the year. NRCS has revoked or denied all leave request and Jason reported he has been working 10 hour days and Saturdays. Guidance on the audit is still forthcoming. Richland County has 62 active contracts between EQIP & WHIP. Audit is looking at financials. Every contract has been reviewed. 50% of contracts need to be up to par by December 12<sup>th</sup> but not concurred. The area staff will do that. Matt has been helping with phone calls and obtaining signatures. This audit will be done each year on new contracts. There are some policy changes. Cooperators will be required to complete within 12 months or they will lose the funding. One problem they found was NRCS was making payments for 2007 projects in 2008. The auditor felt payments from previous year should be made in current fiscal year.

Jason also reported NRCS, the District and OSU Extension will be holding a LEAP & Animal Mortality workshop on January 29<sup>th</sup> at the Bellville Fire Department. The workshop is open to surrounding counties. Live stock composting, regulations, your right to know & how to audit your farm will be covered. This meeting is a certification meeting. Fee includes materials, food, and certification, along with location charges. Maximum of 50 people.

**File Storage-** Winger moved to give Hildreth the approval to purchase either used fireproof file cabinet or fireproof gun cabinet not to exceed \$1,200.

**2009 Tree Program-** Thomas reported the Clear fork FFA has agreed to partner with the district for the 2009 tree sale. Still working on program logistics.

**Hildreth-** reminded the Board of the planning meeting scheduled December 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Hutson-** January 20<sup>th</sup> Federation Meeting.

**Hildreth-** reported on scenic rivers meeting held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. They are doing a study of the Mohican Watershed. Plans need submitted & approved by April.

**Ruhl-**Jason presented to the Board he would like a member not applying for EQIP in 2009 to participate in a local workgroup. He encouraged the Board to designate a member to attend. The workgroup would entail bringing forth agriculture resource concerns in the county and attending two meetings a year. The meetings should last around 2 hours each.

**John-** reported to the Board he will be conducting employee evaluations after the first of the year and to contact him with any comments they might have.

**Wayne-** Lexington Park Board inquired about trees. John told Wayne the district can assist them with wholesale pricing.

Winger motioned to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Cook seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 5-0.

---

Chairman

---

Secretary

---

Recorded Minutes