

The Richland Soil & Water Conservation District held their **Regular January Board Meeting** on the 11th, 2007 at 7:00 p.m. located at 1495 West Longview Ave. Mansfield, Ohio.

Jerry Schumacher called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with the following in attendance, Wayne Weirick, Roger Cook, Bob Winbigler, John Hildreth, Bonnie Thomas and Gary Mathes.

Secretary Report –Cook motioned to accept the December minutes as typed. Weirick seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Schumacher aye, Motion passed 3-0.

Charles Winger arrived at 7:06

Financials – Winger motioned to approve January's District Fund of 2 transaction totaling \$156.03 (check # 44138 & 4139), December's Special Fund of 30 transactions totaling \$37,015.41, January's Special Fund of 18 transactions totaling \$12,250.10 and to accept CPA's November & December's reports as printed. Cook seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Board Re-Organization – Winger motioned to keep the same positions and committee structure in 2007 with no changes. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Old Business

Bill Bierly Complaint- Hildreth reviewed with the Board, Bill Bierly is a dairy farmer who has had an on going issue with his neighbor across the road. There have been three separate instances regarding the dairy farm and the neighbor's pond. Mediation was held on January 5th. Tom Holmes, Clark Hutson, John Hildreth, Gary Mathes, Neil McKowen, Bill Bierly, and Joel Beinbrech were in attendance. Bierly agreed to hire a contractor and follow the NRCS engineer's directions. It was discovered during the mediation there is a tile issue with the Bienbrech pond. The District has offered survey assistance with the plan to correct the problem due by the end of April, and it is to be completed the end of August. There was discussion on the Mark Fry tile outlet. The District wants to resolve on a verbal basis.

New Business

Legislative Breakfast & OFSWCD Resolutions- The Board reviewed the Allen and Warren SWCD resolutions and Wayne Weirick will represent the District at the Annual Meeting in Columbus Jan 16th & 17th.

Review Audit Report–Board reviewed the draft audit report and management letter prepared by Kevin O'Connor. The official letter deviated from the hand written comments made when the audit took place in June. Winger motioned to address the discrepancies in a letter and mail to Kevin O'Connor. Cook seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

2007 Inventory /Retirement Review- Cook motioned to approve the 2007 Inventory Report as submitted and to remove #2758, 2724, A-021139 and 9334 from inventory and accept A-021141, A-021142, A-021143, A-021144, A-021145 and A-021146 as inventory items with value over \$200.00. Winger seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Policy 1.22 Revision – Cook motioned to adopt revisions to Policy 1.22, Personal (Volunteer) Service Agreement which changes mileage reimbursement from .35 cents to the current IRS Mileage rate. Winger seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

2007 Budget Request–Hildreth reviewed the 2007 budget and budget hearing with Board members. Hildreth committed the County Commissioners appreciate the Board and all the District does. Hildreth also discussed seasonal help, for an Ag and Education Assistant were budgeted for and the 2007 budget is similar to 2006 budget. The County Commissioner granted \$225,000 from the general fund. Weirick seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Part-Time Education Assistant- The Board reviewed the job description and discussed salary range. Cook approved the application with a salary range of \$10 - \$20, and for Hildreth and Kelley to interview and select candidates for Board interview. Weirick seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Participation in ODNR Equine Cost Share – Hildreth and Mathes reported this is a special EQIP program that would provide cost share assistance to landowners if needed. The District can accept or decline to participate in this volunteer program. Cook motioned to adopt the program. Weirick seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Cancellation of May, August & October Board Meetings- Cook motioned to cancel the 2007 May, August and October Board Meetings due to Board members busy schedules. Winger seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Review District Policies- Hildreth reported as part of the audit review, it is recommended the Board review District policies annually. The Board discussed forming a committee to review District policies and make recommendations. Committee will be Schumacher, Hildreth and Thomas. Committee will try to meet the week of January 22nd.

Reports-

NACD Annual Meeting Los Angeles - Thomas handed out tour info.

Farm Land Preservation & Easements– Hildreth reported he spoke to a landowner who has a farm he wants to put in an easement to maintain its farm land status. Districts can manage these easements. Hildreth knows an Attorney, Eric Miller who has created a Conservancy District to manage easements. Hildreth suggested inviting Eric to a Board meeting to discuss collaborating easement management.

EPA- Mohican Watershed Study- Hildreth reported EPA is going to do a complete watershed study in Ashland & Richland Counties. The District will be sharing information and working with them over the next couple of months.

Mathes – Reported on upcoming Grazing Management Workshop. Currently 12 registered, ties into EQIP. Currently EQIP grazing practices need a Certified Grazing Management Plan. Attended all- employees training at Salt Fork. GIS layers maps now available for wetlands. Sandusky watershed was selected for CSP, no money available now. Record

keeping is very important with CSP. New Farm Bill might put all 20 programs into one program which will be easier to manage.

Schumacher- Hasn't talked to Randy Eisenhower regarding the nut planter. Hildreth recommended we modify the trailer we purchased and use it.

Weirick motioned to enter into executive session for District Administrators review. Cook seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular board meeting reconvened at 10:25 p.m.

Winger wants District to investigate inventive ways to generate revenue for District and to develop business relationships with NC State, Brain Tree and community leaders.

Cook motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 p.m. Weirick seconded the motion. Cook aye; Weirick aye; Winger aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Chairman

Secretary

Recorded Minutes