

The Richland Soil & Water Conservation District held their **Regular November Board Meeting** on the 13<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 7:23 p.m. with the following in attendance, Bob Winbigler, Roger Cook, John Hildreth, Bonnie Thomas, Jim Crowl, Matt Christian, Tim Brandt, Tony Studer, Diana Kelley and Jason Ruhl. Wayne Weirick was absent.

**Secretaries Report** – Cook motioned to approve Septembers Regular minutes. Winbigler seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 3-0.

**Stop Payment** – Winbigler motioned to do a stop payment on Check# 4298 written to HP Express-Services in the amount of \$509.00 and re-issue a new one. Cook seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye. Motion passed 3-0.

Winger arrived at 7:25 pm

**Financials** – Winger motioned to accept October Special Fund of 26 transactions totaling \$17,292.24, November Special Fund of 18 transactions totaling \$12,375.26, November District Fund of 20 transactions totaling \$11,250.54 (check #4303- #4322 and to accept CPA's September & October reports as printed. Cook seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 4-0.

#### **Old Business-**

**Farm Land Preservation-** Mark Forni was not available, tabled till next month.

**Financial Planning Session-** Hildreth reported state match was reduced by approximately \$10,000 due to Governors budget cuts and the purpose of tonight's financial planning session is to discuss what we can do in house to adjust. Hildreth reported he reviewed financial reports and he doesn't see absorbent spending on the financial side. He stated there probably will be cuts on the state and local side in 2009.. Hildreth reported the commissioners look at salaries compared to total budget and the district falls into the percentage they look for. The conveyance fee has not been used to fund Soil & Water due to other county unexpected expenses. Hildreth told the Board the staff was here to discuss programs and spending. The next level will be how to put a plan together to request the same or more funding in 2009. Hildreth reported the district provides EPA and Stormwater services for the county commissioners.

Kelley ran reports from SWIMS to show how many residents she has provided education programming to. Phase II reporting was discussed, do we meet county goals. Hildreth told the Board he would like to go before the county commissioners to ask for a millage on the levy to support the district. The district would need a speakers bureau and to get in front of the people. Hildreth suggested a green campaign theme. Will wait to see how county commissioners are going to fund in 2009.

Christian commented 2008 was a typical year with seven waterway totally 8,430 feet & 6.19 acres. Crop rotation can affect the numbers from year to year. The new GPS unites have come in handy, they are very accurate and with the total station he doesn't need to rely on Jeff LeFever. Lori has assisted when available and that has worked out well.

Tony reported he has used the Trimble GPS units to do the culverts and also has used for stormwater. Permits are down from last year. 2007 permit total was 101 residential and 14 commercial. 2008 permit totals through November 13<sup>th</sup> are 75 residential permits and 12 commercial.

Jim Crowl reported he has been working on Shelby & Bellville flooding, causes and how to correct the problem. He is looking at the possibility of detention ponds. November 6<sup>th</sup>, took 20 people to Bryan Ohio to see what they are doing. He is working with Tim learning about commercial sites and also working on the new stormwater regulations. In process of bringing on new permit program that will pull out reports. He has also taken on shooting wetlands and vernal ponds.

Hildreth reported will begin at staff meeting putting a syllabus together to learn and share ideas to help the Board make financial decisions.

### **New Business-**

**CREP Contracts-** Matt reported Ed Crawford noticed on the CREP report that contract #5012 for \$2,450.00 & #5013 for \$1,120.00 for Jerry Niese was never paid out. Matt was not aware they were done. A letter regarding bonus payment was sent.

Cook moved for Thomas to transfer CREP funds totaling \$3,570.00 for contracts #5012 & #5013 from Star Ohio to the districts Key bank checking account. Winbigler seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**Revised Visa Policy & courthouse letter-** Thomas reported even though the district falls under ORC 1515.093 "Employee use of district credit cards" the county commissioners requested a letter from Appointing Authority/Director authorizing credit card use and authorized individual acknowledgement forms stating district employees are responsible for any unallowable or improper purchases as outlined in the policy and understand alcohol purchases are prohibited and to add to current Visa policy alcohol purchases are prohibited. Cook moved to accept revision to Visa use Policy 2.01. Winger seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**Thanksgiving & Christmas Holiday-** Winger motioned to give district employees paid administrative leave the day after Thanksgiving, November 28<sup>th</sup> & the day after Christmas December 26<sup>th</sup>. Winbigler seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**Christmas Party-**The Board and staff decided not to have a Christmas party in 2008.

**Planning Meeting-** Cook motioned to hold a Planning Meeting on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008 from 2-4 pm. Winbigler seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Schumacher requested the district check with the fairgrounds regarding storing the tree planters and nut planters at their facility.

**Tree Proposal-**Cook moved to research if the FFA Chapters would like to take over the tree program. Winbigler seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 4-0.

**Log Jam Policy-** Hildreth reviewed a draft log jam policy with the Board. Hildreth told the Board he would like to have a policy to stand behind. He requested the Board study and add commentary. Will review at Decembers Board Meeting.

**Agreements-** In the future Conservation Agreements will be reported quarterly and may be included in the NRCS report.

## **Reports**

**NRCS-** Jason Ruhl reported EQIP sign-up will last till after the first of the year. During the month of December reviewing active EQIP contracts for proper documentation, this is being done across the state. Depending on circumstance, advised to send certified mail. NRCS is starting to enforce what individuals have signed up to do. Will send certified when there is a deadline to reply. NRCS will not be using certified mail for general announcements. New Farm Bill is still not complete, telling people the old Farm Bill rules. There has been a huge interest in Alpacas in Richland County and also a huge interest in EQIP. Together with the District and OSU Extension holding a LEAP Workshop in January, the charge will be minimal. The morning half of workshop will be holding composting session. To date 133 inquires into EQIP. Approximately 100 people have come through the door. EQIP cut off after the first of the year. Reported is still looking for a representative that has not applied for EQIP to serve on local workgroup which will identify local resource concerns by assigning points.

**Area & State Winter Meetings-**Thomas distributed handouts to the Board and Hildreth reviewed the meetings.

**Carbon Credit Workshop-** Winbigler reported approximately 35 people attended the workshop held at Troyer's Dutch Heritage. The speaker was good. Goal is to keep carbon in soil. There are two programs, Aforestry & Managing Forest. A 250 acre managed forest would yield \$980 per year.

**Crowl-** Good group of people attended trip to Bryan Ohio. Friends of the Black fork attended, Shelby, Village of Bellville and Lexington was represented.

**Rain Garden Workshop-** Hildreth reported on the Rain Garden Workshop held at King Wood Center November 1<sup>st</sup>. There were 35 in attendance. Hildreth was a presenter. Three hours were in the classroom and then the group walked the grounds. Those in attendance grasped the concept.

**School Days-**Kelley reported a total of 705 attended the two day event. They had 30 plus presenters and it was tailored to content standards. Looking at a grant to fund busing in Richland County to increase attendance. The fairgrounds do not charge for the use of their facilities. Thanked Jerry for coming to Wilderness Weekend.

**Matt-** Found out we have a credit toward our next CAD subscription.

**John-**Working through Mark Wilson, he is looking for a watershed project in the Shelby area. If it is a go it would be a no till program where an electric company would pay for no till. Hildreth reported he received an email from a misinformed landowner regarding what we can and can not do.

Winbigler motioned to enter into executive session for personnel review and requested John Hildreth and Jim Crowl in attendance. Cook seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Regular Board Meeting reconvened at 10:40.

Cook motioned there will not be any cost of living adjustments at the end of 2008. The board will review the subject in the 2009 budget year once the operating budget is firm. Winger seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 4-0.

Cook motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:55 p.m. Winbigler seconded the motion. Cook aye; Winbigler aye; Schumacher aye; Winger aye. Motion passed 4-0.

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Chairman

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Secretary

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Recorded Minutes

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Recorded Minutes