

Logan Soil and Water Conservation District

324 Co. Rd. 11 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

June 16, 2021

Present: Tim Lyden, Frank Phelps, Eric Johnson, and Gloria Carson – Supervisors
Steve Searson – District Administrator/Technician
Trace Smail – District Technician
Jennifer Snipes – Administrative Assistant
Jocelyn Henderson – ODA Area IV Program Specialist

Frank Phelps called the meeting to order at 8:33 AM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Darin Leach of FSA provided program updates, changes, and availability and answered questions from the board.

On a motion by Gloria Carson, seconded by Tim Lyden, and unanimously carried, the board approved the minutes of the regular May 2021 meeting.

REPORTS:

NRCS Updates

The following NRCS updates were given:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program):

- Working to complete engineering designs and complete field visits for new EQIP applications.
 - The backlog of engineering designs needed has been greatly reduced
- 2021 EQIP contracts have been obligated
 - 2 new contracts
 - \$6,000 in funding
 - Additional pre-approvals will be announced soon

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- Currently 2 applications of file for this year
 - 1490.5 acres
 - \$80,775.00

ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program)

- 10 sites have been selected for easement monitoring this month
- 2 additional WRE sites have closed

FSA ASSISTED FARM BILL PROGRAMS:

Food Security Act –Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Compliance

- 22 HEL Determinations (total for the 2021).
- 22 Wetland Determinations (total for the 2021).
- 7 determinations are pending in the field office
- Approximately 9 determinations/reconsiderations pending in the area office

CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) –

- Field checks are required this year for the 2021 and 2022 re-enrolls.
 - Field checks have started and working on plans. Waiting on updated rules from FSA before getting any signatures.
- Ashley Dawson has been hired as the new PF Biologist. Her start date is June 28. She has been working in a similar position in Illinois since 2019.

Schedule Update:

- Current operation status is to maximize telework and field work is to continue as needed. Visitors are allowed one at a time with a scheduled appointment

- Leisha is on annual leave June 14-18. LaRae Baker will be acting DC.

ODA Updates

Jocelyn Henderson was in attendance and provided updates from the ODA.

MNM & Technical Updates

Steve reported that there were no manure complaints. Steve has been working on numerous waterway designs, plans, and construction checks. He has also been working on quite a few inventory and evaluations. Currently, he is also training our new technician hire, Trace Smail in the field and in the office on computer work.

Board Reports

None

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The financial reports were reviewed. On a motion by Tim Lyden, seconded by Eric Johnson the financial reports for the month ending May 31, 2021 were unanimously approved.

On a motion by Tim Lyden, seconded by Gloria Carson, and unanimously passed with Frank Phelps abstaining the board voted to approve a \$200 scholarship to Ohio Forestry Association for Beau Young to attend Camp Canopy.

OLD BUSINESS:

The Carbon Sequestration Cover Crop Grant was discussed. SWCD was waiting on a signed agreement from Logan Solid Waste that was received 6/8/21. Public notice of the grant was placed in the Bellefontaine Examiner on 06/10/21 and the deadline for applications is 06/25/21.

Jennifer Snipes let the board know that we received thank you notes from some Indian Lake Elementary Schools 3rd/4th graders for participating in Ag Day.

Jennifer let the board know we received a thank you note from ILWP for the personal donations that were made by the board and staff in memorial of Don Phelps.

NEW BUSINESS:

An update on the progress of the sales tax levy was given.

Jennifer gave an update on the nominees for the election. She has called five nominees and three have accepted. She has visited one to get their bio information started and will be contacting the other new nominee as well as the incumbent to get their bios soon.

The annual meeting was again discussed feedback from Jill was provided by Steve. The board decided that a Sunday afternoon event may draw more participants and they like that idea. They would still like to do a picnic as opposed to food trucks but will wait on the prices for final determination.

Marsha Roberts was nominated by Tim Lyden for the Conservation Farm Family of the Year. Eric Johnson seconded that motion and it unanimously passed. Jennifer will contact Marsha for acceptance of the nomination and then contact Janelle about getting a sign.

Jennifer let the board know that Logan County will be the host site for the 2022 Area IV Envirothon. She discussed a couple of the possible sites and let the board know she will keep them updated.

On a motion by Eric Johnson, seconded by Tim Lyden and passed unanimously the board approved some unpaid vacation time for Trace Smail in the months of July and August as he is not eligible for paid vacation until after his one year worked anniversary.

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As there was no further business, a motion was made by Eric Johnson at 9:28 AM to adjourn. Tim Lyden seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried by the board and meeting adjourned.

Frank Phelps, Chairman

Tim Lyden, Secretary

Jennifer Snipes, Recording Secretary

cc: Logan SWCD Supervisors, Jocelyn Henderson, Logan County Commissioners, Theresa Howick

Next Regular Meeting Date: July 21, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.

UNOFFICIAL