

Logan Soil and Water Conservation District

324 Co. Rd. 11 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

February 19, 2020

Present: Frank Phelps, Eric Johnson, Joe Ramsey, and Gloria Carson – Supervisors

Steve Searson – District Administrator/District Technician

Jennifer Snipes – Administrative Assistant

Leisha Billenstein – NRCS District Conservationist

Jocelyn Henderson – Area 4 Program Specialist, ODA

Mark Wallen – Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist

Eric Johnson called the meeting to order at 8:29 AM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

On a motion by Joe Ramsey, seconded by Frank Phelps, and unanimously carried, the board approved the minutes of the regular January 2020 meeting as presented.

REPORTS:

NRCS Updates

The following NRCS updates were given:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program):

- Sign up cut off for 2020 program year has been announced for March 20th
 - Working on field visits and developing plans for application
 - Currently there are 20 application pending in the office

- Working to address the engineering backlog

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- Currently 4 application on file
- Waiting on the sign-up to be announced

FSA ASSISTED FARM BILL PROGRAMS:

Food Security Act –Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Compliance

- 1 HEL Determinations (total for the year).
- 1 Wetland Determinations (total for the year).
- There are 5 reconsideration determinations pending.
- Approximately 18 determinations pending in the office
- Working on emailing packets to the state office for review

CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) –

- Mid-Contract Management meetings are currently being held
- Mark has been making phone calls to contract holders with CRP contracts expiring at the end of 2020 so he can start field visits.
 - We have 66 re-enroll application.
 - Lorre has started making phone calls to people with waterways eligible for re-enroll
 - Brian Leptak will be completing the field visits

- CRP sign-up is open for continuous practices and general CRP.

Schedule Update:

- Women's Round Circle first meeting was held on February 11th
 - Next meeting is scheduled for April 3rd. the topic is water quality.
 - We had 12 people in attendance including staff
- Outreach meeting is scheduled for March 12 at 5:30 p.m. – will be held at the Logan County Co-Op
 - Mark Wallen with PF will be the speaker
- Leisha will be out of the office March 4-11

- Civil Rights Review
 - Reviewed MOU, operating hours, vacation/leave, 1619 agreement, civil right statements

ODA Updates

Jocelyn Henderson's notes and calendar were previously emailed. She reviewed the H2Ohio roll out meetings, Beehive and that goals that need tied to annual plan of work, Open Meetings Act, and Ethics Laws.

MNM & Technical Updates

Steve Searson reported that he did not have any manure complaints. He has been working on waterways lately for the 2020 season.

Board Reports

The board and staff discussed the dangerous parking lot situations that have been happening with the winter weather this year. It was determined that some requests will be made to prevent injury to staff or customers. This will be discussed further at the March meeting.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The financial reports were reviewed as emailed. On a motion by Frank Phelps, seconded by Joe Ramsey the financial reports for the month ending January 31, 2020 were unanimously approved.

On a motion by Frank Phelps, seconded by Joe Ramsey and unanimously carried a donation of \$100 to the Area IV Envirothon was approved.

Jennifer Snipes provided each board member with a copy of the cash basis report that is ready for submission for their review.

OLD BUSINESS:

Steve Searson attended and judged the Ben Logan Science Fair and presented three fourth graders with prizes of a certificate and \$15/each for their projects. On a motion by Gloria Carson, seconded by Joe Ramsey and carried unanimously the board approved the prize money that was given. Jennifer noted that originally \$60 was taken out; however, since only \$45 was given, \$15 was redeposited.

Steve Searson gave an update on the Wildlife Grant with Champaign County. Meetings to discuss cover crops are in the works.

Jennifer Snipes gave an update on where we are with tree sales and plug sales at this time. We are about 20 days away from the deadline. Trees will again be packed at Kinney's this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

Jennifer Snipes informed the board that we will be hosting a pollinator workshop in partnership with NRCS and Pheasants Forever at the Logan County Co-Op on Thursday, March 12th at 5:30.

The local work group meeting will follow this board meeting today. Jennifer Snipes informed the board that she branched out and invited a few more community members. On a motion by Joe Ramsey, seconded by Frank Phelps and unanimously carried the board approved to provide donuts and coffee for the work group.

This year for the annual donation to Envirothon Silent Auction at the OFSWCD Annual Conference, Jennifer purchased a decorative truck from Jones Country Store as well as some salve made by ChriMis Farms, some honey spread by Nate's Nectar, and Eric Johnson donated some Maple Syrup from Johnson's Maple Syrup Camp. Frank Phelps made a motion, it was seconded by Joe Ramsey and unanimously carried by the board to approve these purchases for the donation.

The board discussed the hiring of an entry level technician and on a motion by Frank Phelps, seconded by Gloria Carson and unanimously carried they decided to start advertising right away and have a deadline to apply of March 31, 2020 and to change the probationary period to six months. The job description will be sent to colleges, FFA teachers, put on the Gov.jobs website, and FB.

*****EXECUTIVE SESSION*****

Jennifer Snipes provided the board with employee packets of an employee performance and calculating personnel costs for budgeting purposes. Joe Ramsey made a motion to enter executive session to discuss employee reviews at 9:39 a.m. Joe Ramsey seconded the motion and the motion carried. The board asked Steve Searson to remain in attendance.

At 9:55 a.m. Frank Phelps made a motion to dismiss executive session. Eric Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Frank Phelps made a motion to give all employees a 3% raise and to make it active as of the beginning of the next pay period (02/21/2020). Gloria Carson – aye, Frank Phelps – aye, Joe Ramsey – aye, Eric Johnson – aye. Motion carried unanimously.

.....

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Joe Ramsey at 10:00 AM to adjourn. Gloria Carson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried by the board and meeting adjourned.

Tim Lyden, Chairman

Frank Phelps, Secretary

Jennifer Snipes, Recording Secretary

cc: Logan SWCD Supervisors, Jocelyn Henderson, Logan County Commissioners, Bill Conklin

Next Regular Meeting Date: March 18, 2020 at 8:30 AM.