

Logan Soil and Water Conservation District

324 Co. Rd. 11 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

May 19, 2021

Present: Tim Lyden, Joe Ramsey, Frank Phelps, and Gloria Carson – Supervisors
Steve Searson – District Administrator/Technician
Trace Smail – District Technician
Jennifer Snipes – Administrative Assistant

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

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Mark Wilson from American Farmland Trust attended to discuss a grant they are pursuing that they would like Logan SWCD to partner on. The grant would help secure federal funding as well as in-kind donations from numerous partners to work towards a common goal of implementing good management practices in the Upper Scioto Valley Watershed. On a motion by Joe Ramsey, seconded by Tim Lyden and unanimously carried, the board approved an in-kind donation of 20 hours a year by our technician if the grant is received. Jennifer Snipes will provide a statement of collaboration by Friday to Mark Wilson.

On a motion by Tim Lyden, seconded by Gloria Carson, and unanimously carried, the board approved the minutes of the regular April 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.
 - Working on completing I&E's
 - Payment has been made for 2 pasture practices and 1 additional site is under construction
- Currently 2 applications are awaiting signatures

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- Currently 2 applications of file for this year
 - 1490.5 acres
 - \$80,775.00
- Re-Enroll applications have a deadline of March 31
 - 8 contracts are eligible for re-enroll

ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program)

- 10 sites have been selected for easement monitoring this month

FSA ASSISTED FARM BILL PROGRAMS:

Food Security Act –Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Compliance

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

CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) –

- Field checks are required this year for the 2021 and 2022 re-enrolls.
 - Maps have been provided by FSA and will start completing field checks
- PF Biologist position has been advertised

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

ODA Updates

Jocelyn Henderson's notes were previously emailed. ODA is currently teleworking due to COVID-19.

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 some drainage designs and has been called to a few drainage disputes. It is also time for the yearly CRP re-enrollment checks, and he has done a few EQIP checks. 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 Joe Ramsey the financial reports for the month ending April 30, 2021 were unanimously approved.

Jennifer provided a copy of the Internal Review to each board member for review and it will be submitted prior to May 26th.

On a motion by Gloria Carson, seconded by Eric Johnson and unanimously carried, the board agreed to submit a revised grant proposal to Logan Solid Waste District for a Carbon Sequestration Cover Crop Grant to explore the affects of cover crops on carbon sequestration in Logan County. We have proposed that Logan SWCD would provide the technical and administrative aspects as well as do the soil testing for up to 500 acres with 3-4 farms as the test areas for this program. The revision details some of the expenses as well as outlines how the grant will be received from Logan Solid Waste District.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jennifer Snipes let the board know that she attended the Indian Lake Elementary Schools 3rd/4th grade Ag Day and that the Ag Master Game that was invented was a success. Many of the kids asked to play again.

Logan SWCD will be participating in a friends and family day at Mac-A-Cheek Castle on Friday, May 21st at 4 p.m. We will be doing a presentation on the Monarch Butterfly.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

The nominating committee met prior to the May board meeting and Jennifer advised the board on the nominees that were given. She will be contacting them to ask if they would like to run in the next week.

The annual meeting was discussed, and ideas were provided. We will wait to hear from Jill with Farm Bureau on some of the leads she is following and will then determine what we would like to pursue. Also, the board will be thinking of nominees for Farm Family of the Year.

On a motion by Tim Lyden, seconded by Eric Johnson and unanimously carried the board voted to approve the inventory for 2021.

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Eric Johnson at 9:14 AM to adjourn. Gloria Carson 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: June 16, 2021 at 8:30 a.m.