

***Logan Soil and Water Conservation District***

***324 Co. Rd. 11 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311***

June 17, 2020

Present: Tim Lyden, Eric Johnson, Joe Ramsey, Frank Phelps, and Gloria Carson – Supervisors  
Steve Searson – District Administrator  
Jennifer Snipes – Administrative Assistant

Tim Lyden called the meeting to order at 8:43 AM.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:** None

On a motion by Frank Phelps, seconded by Eric Johnson, and unanimously carried, the board approved the minutes of the regular May 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**REPORTS:**

**NRCS Updates**

The following NRCS updates were given:

**EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program):**

- Focus has been on completing ranking and contracting new applications
  - 14 of the 17 EQIP applications have been selected for funding
  - Mailed letters of intent last week to make sure all necessary paperwork is in the office and verify each applicant intends to move forward with the application
  - Obligation deadline is July 31

**CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)**

- Currently 4 application on file
  - Ranking deadline is June 19

**ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program)**

- 4 Wetland Reserve Applications
- 4 Farmland Preservation Applications
  - Ranking has been completed waiting on application selection

**FSA ASSISTED FARM BILL PROGRAMS:**

**Food Security Act –Highly Erodible Land & Wetland Compliance**

- 24 HEL Determinations (total for the year).
- 24 Wetland Determinations (total for the year).
- There are 5 reconsideration determinations pending.
- Approximately 12 determinations pending in the office

**CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) –**

- Mid-Contract Management paperwork has been sent over and approximately 20 field visits are needed
- We have 66 re-enroll applications that will need to have plans completed.
- 4 general CRP and 2 grassland CRP contracts need to be completed
- Continuous – CRP applications for waterways, filter strips, and quail buffers also need to be completed
  - Steve has been working on waterway designs. Mark has started the re-enroll wildlife contracts

**Schedule Update:**

- Current operation status is to maximize telework and the USDA offices are closed to outside visitors. Field work is to continue as needed.
  - See the summary of USDA Reopening Playbook

**ODA Updates**

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

**MNM & Technical Updates**

Steve reported that he has been construction checking waterways, working with ODA to resolve a pollution complaint, surveying and designing projects for this fall.

**Board Reports**

Tim Lyden let the board know that we are going to pursue a panel type cover crop meeting at the end of July at the park in Zanesfield.

**FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

The financial reports were reviewed. On a motion by Joe Ramsey, seconded by Gloria Carson the financial reports for the month ending May 31, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Jennifer Snipes let the board know that we she and Steve Searson had decided to make the \$150 donation to the OFSWCD Ohio Envirothon Don Rehl Memorial. This was previously passed by the board.

On a motion by Frank Phelps and seconded by Joe Ramsey it was decided to purchase a new computer monitor for the secretary station. Motion unanimously passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Jennifer Snipes gave an update on the tree sale and mid contract management pollinator plugs that were sold and final numbers.

The board was also informed that an extension has been filed for our audit due to COVID 19 and could begin at any time. The firm conducting the audit has contacted us and would like to begin late June or early July.

Steve Searson discussed the grant collaboration request we had received from American Farmland Trust. The information was previously emailed to the board; however, in question is the amount of monetary or in-kind contribution that is expected. Joe Ramsey made a motion that we are willing to do in kind work but will await a clarification on the amount expected. Eric Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

The letter that was emailed to SWCD technician applicants was read to the board to be filed with the minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A discussion was had of the current county and federal guidelines for the reopening phases due to COVID 19. At this time the Logan SWCD will continue with their current format and continue to take precautions but be available when needed by the public.

It was announced on Friday, June 12<sup>th</sup> that Bellefontaine High School Envirothon Team had won (1<sup>st</sup> place) this year’s Ohio Envirothon.

As we are not having an Annual Meeting this year, the plans for what we would be doing for the election were discussed. Frank Phelps made a motion to change our award to Conservationist Farm Family of the Year from the previously awarded Cooperator of the Year. This year the board would like to recognize 4S Farms (Schlumbohm’s) for their work on conservation especially with cover crops. Also, the period for in person elections this year will be September 17, 2020 – September 30, 2020. Joe Ramsey seconded this motion. Motion was unanimously passed.



As there was no further business, a motion was made by Frank Phelps at 9:41 AM to adjourn. Eric Johnson seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried by the board and meeting adjourned.

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**Tim Lyden, Chairman**

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**Frank Phelps, Secretary**

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**Jennifer Snipes, Recording Secretary**

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

**Next Regular Meeting Date: July 15, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.**

UNOFFICIAL