



**FLOYD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, August 7, 2025 @ 9:00 a.m.**

Present: The Board

Tom King
Ron Wathen
Melanie Palaisa

Office Staff:

Angel Jackson, Director / Educator

Guests:

Rachel Boucher / NRCS
Cara Bezuska / Assoc. Supervisor
Laura Fribley / ISDA
Cole Flatt / RITA
Eliza Hudson / NRCS

Chairman, Tom King, called the regular meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. in the Commissioner's meeting room.

Ron Wathen motioned to approve the July meeting minutes. Melanie Palaisa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was given: Savings Account: General Savings - \$17,237.05. Checking Account: General Checking - \$81,049.29.

Melanie Palaisa motioned to approve the financial report. Ron Wathen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the financial report approved.

Guest reports started with Laura Fribley sharing information about the next round of Clean Water Indiana grants and that the state has created a new position of CWI Coordinator. Rachel informed the board that NRCS reorganization was going to result in 5 regional hubs nationally, with Indiana being one of them. In the Farm Bill, race / gender will no longer be used on scoring applications. The RCPP Sentinel Landscape program is pausing land management projects. Small farm technical assistance has no funding. Eliza informed the board that the Farmers Helping Hellbenders project was seeking Clean Water Indiana funds since they were not funded through RCPP. Eliza asked the board to make a financial commitment should the CWI application be awarded.

Melanie Palaisa motioned to commit \$5000 to the Farmers Helping Hellbenders if their CWI application is funded. Ron Wathen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.

Old Business discussions started with the cancelation of the Pasture Workshop scheduled for Aug. 9th due to no registrations. The board had approved spending \$600 on a hand washing station & port-o-let for the workshop. Since it was canceled, the money approved was re-allocated for purchasing plants for the rain garden workshop later this month.

Melanie Palaisa motioned to spend \$600 on native plants for the rain garden workshop. Ron Wathen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.



SWCD

SOIL and WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Floyd County, Indiana

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Other Old Business discussed was the newspaper advertisements the district is running about Invasive Awareness. The first ad ran in the News & Tribune the last week of July.

New Business started with Angel reminding the supervisors of the upcoming summer regional meeting at Cornucopia Farms. Angel will register any supervisor or associate supervisor who wants to attend.

The "Careers in Agriculture" 4th grade field trip will take place Sept. 16, 17, and 18. The district will once again be a partner sponsor of the day (\$1200 approved at July meeting). Gina Anderson has requested volunteers to help with all three days. Any supervisor available to help please let Angel or Gina know.

The district will be partnering with Purdue Extension and Floyd County Parks to host a Build Your Own Bat House workshop on September 30th. The workshop will be held at Community Park. The goal is to build 25 houses.

Ron Wathen motioned to spend \$250 on materials for building bat houses. Melanie Palaisa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motioned approved.

Angel advised the board that she had met with County Councilman Dale Bagshaw to review the 2026 budget. A hearing date has not be set at this time. The only change to the budget is a council approved 2% salary increase.

The only discussion under "Other New Business" was Angel attending the IDEA Fall Conference in October.

Melanie Palaisa made a motion to pay \$150 registration fee for Angel to attend IDEA Fall Conference. Ron Wathen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.

Claims presented to the board: Claims paid by District: -\$0. Claims sent directly to County for payment: - \$0. Claims paid by the District reimbursed by the County: -\$54.00 – Let Us Learn – Hose for SRE Raingarden. Grant: -\$250.00 – Let Us Learn – Soil & Mulch SRE Raingarden; -\$200.00 – Cara Bezuska – Graphic Design newspaper advertisements; -\$250.00 – Sara Bacher – CISMA Secretary Q2. CWI Invasive: -\$0.

With no other business to discuss, the board moved to end the meeting.

Ron Wathen made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Melanie Palaisa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the meeting adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully,

Angel Jackson
Director / Educator

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