



**FLOYD COUNTY SOIL AND WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR MEETING  
Thursday, March 6, 2025 @ 3:00 p.m.**

**Present: The Board**

Tom King  
Melanie Palaisa  
Ron Wathen  
Matt Payne

**Office Staff:**

Angel Jackson, Director / Educator

**Guests:**

Rachel Boucher / NRCS  
Eliza Hudson / NRCS  
Heather Ratchford / Assoc. Supervisor

Chairman, Tom King, called the regular meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. in the district office.

Melanie Palaisa motioned to approve the February meeting minutes. Matt Payne seconded the motion. All were in favor and the minutes approved.

The Treasurer's report was given: Savings Account: General Savings - \$17,236.20. Checking Account: General Checking - \$72,164.70.

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

Guest reports started with Eliza Hudson giving an update on the RCPP. There were 10 applications for 2025, most of them EQIP. Four applications were approved in Harrison & Crawford counties totaling \$195K. No Floyd county applicants this round. Rachel Boucher reported the following:

- \* Reductions in the workforce at NRCS impacted 35 probationary employees in Indiana
- \* Some USDA service centers are without NRCS employees
- \* Inflation Reduction Act monies are on hold and partnership payments stopped
- \* All reorganization should be complete by September
- \* Any media requests seeking comment should be directed to Chris Vance (NRCS)
- \* Avian flu cases in Washington & Jackson counties affected several thousand birds (turkey & chicken)

The only item to discuss under Old Business was the CWI and AFR reporting. Angel shared with the board that all required reporting was complete and the district would be receiving their \$20K from the state.

New Business started with reviewing the Annual Meeting. All board members agreed the evening went great. There was some discussion about having a joint annual meeting with Purdue Extension next year to combine resources and draw a larger audience.



**SWCD**

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The election of officers was conducted.

Ron Wathen motioned to make Tom King President of the board. Matt Payne seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.

Matt Payne motioned to make Ron Wathen Vice President of the board. Melanie Palaisa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.

Matt Payne motioned to make Angel Jackson the Secretary/Treasurer. Melanie Palaisa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.

The 2025 Annual Plan of Work was reviewed and updated with planned workshops. Melanie Palaisa asked that additional categories be added to the Annual Plan, including Financial Stewardship and Succession Planning.

Angel advised she would be making the trip to Vallonia to pick up Floyd Co. resident tree orders. She will be going March. 21<sup>st</sup>. The board agreed to purchase 400 lb. of wildlife seed food plot mix from Lewis Seed Company.

Matt Payne motioned to purchase 400 lb. of wildlife seed for \$320. Ron Wathen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.

The district will once again work with Andry's Fish Farm to offer a spring fish sale. Orders will be taken the last week of April and the first week of May with delivery on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

Under Other Business, Angel reminded the board about the upcoming 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Pollinator Day on April 26<sup>th</sup>. As in years past, the district received a request for sponsorship of the event.

Matt Payne motioned to sponsor Pollinator Day at \$100. Melanie Palaisa seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.

The district is partnering with Purdue Extension to offer a Pasture Workshop on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. The workshop will feature guest speakers from NRCS. In light of the new restrictions placed on NRCS staff regarding weekend work, the board found it appropriate to offer mileage and speaker fees for our guest speakers.

Matt Payne motioned to spend \$200 on guest speakers for the pasture workshop and pay their mileage. Ron Wathen seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion approved.

The 2025 IASWCD dues bill was presented to the board. There was some discussion about the large increase in the dues and what the district gets for it's dues. The board tabled paying the dues bill.

Claims presented to the board: Claims paid by District: -\$0. Claims sent directly to County for payment: - \$107.80  
– Ron Wathen – Mileage to IASWCD Annual Conference. Claims paid by the District reimbursed by the County: -\$0. Grant: -\$0. CWI Invasive: -\$0.



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

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

The meeting adjourned at 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully,

Angel Jackson  
Director / Educator

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