



ORIGINAL

**South Goshen Conservation District  
March 15, 2024, Meeting Minutes  
USDA Service Center Board Room**

Chairman Curtis Grandstaff called the regular board meeting to order at 12:50pm. Supervisors in attendance were Curtis Grandstaff, Jennifer Scheer, Scott Ross and Craig Jackson. Employees present were NRCS District Conservationist Ryan Clayton, Programs Coordinator Bill Simmons and District Manager Jamie Phipps. Scott made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Craig seconded. Motion passed. Supervisors then briefly reviewed the February minutes, Scott motioned to approve the minutes as read, Jennifer seconded. Motion carried. Seeing no walk-in guests the meeting moved to Staff Reports.

Ryan presented the board with a draft Workgroup Survey letter; he commented that last year's method of combining mailings and making the survey available on the website and at the office proved to be an effective way to get constituent involvement in how EQIP funds are allocated. Jamie and Ryan asked the board how they would prefer to reach their constituents in the most efficient way. After some discussion, Craig made a motion to mail the survey to constituents who have previously or currently enrolled in a SGCD program, put the survey on the website and have them available at the office. Scott seconded the motion. Boyd asked for more discussion and then amended the motion to include a SGCD/NPVCD Newsletter in the mailing. No other discussion, motion carried.

Jamie began her report, informing the board that this year's Goshen County Fair theme is to be "Barn in the USA". She is excited and feels it will be a great fair week. She has been in contact with Lori Schafer and questioned whether the district would want to contribute money to the open class awards, as participation in this category has been steadily decreasing. Craig motioned to contribute \$25.00, Boyd seconded. Motion passed. Next, Jamie provided the board with information she had gathered concerning the soil testing program. Upon speaking with Ward Laboratory's Consulting Agronomist Terry Ditner, it came to Jamie's attention that while she thought she ordered the Haney test in 2023 she actually had ordered Ward's Soil Health Assessment due to miscommunication between her and the lab. Terry informed her that while you can still purchase the Haney test, he is recommending people to use the SHA instead. Jamie pursued research and found that Midwest Labs offers Haney tests at a Basic Package of \$55.00 or a Complete at \$65.00. Jamie also shared her results from a website survey she facilitated. After some discussion, Craig made a motion to change the program from one "event" per year to a year-round availability, of one SGCD sponsored Haney Basic test per applicant per year. And to use Midwest Labs. Jennifer seconded; motion carried. Jamie then reminded the board that the Horse Creek Watershed is to be added to the 303(d) list April 1, 2024, prompting discussion. She then asked the board to start thinking about programs as she is going to provide them with a Proposed Budget in May and a Final in June.

Bill stated that he is excited for this upcoming tree season, the seasonals are scheduled to start Monday, and he has completed all 2024 site surveys. He is expecting 26 total plantings and \$4,500.00 so far in Pre-sale invoices. He hopes the tractor repairs will be finished prior to or on April 1<sup>st</sup>. Boyd commented that he will stop by Titan on his way home from the meeting and check on the progress.

Jennifer then gave her Treasurer's Report, stating that the district financials are in good order, and she is pleased. Scott motioned to accept the report, Craig seconded. Motion passed. Next on the agenda, the supervisors reviewed the tree account year to date profit and loss and cash balance.

In Old Business, Jamie informed the supervisors that no one had asked to use the SAREC Watch Party sponsorships, however it came to her attention that two constituents had attended and paid for their registrations. She asked if the district would be interested in offering to reimburse them the registration fee. They agreed by consensus to reach out and offer. Next, Bill and Jamie gave an update on the gopher machine repairs. After receiving the necessary parts from Century 21, Bill was able to conduct the repairs himself, however he was concerned with the position of the back wheel, as he thought it looked off after picking it up from Century 21. Supervisors commented that they too wanted to take a look after the meeting.

Seeing no New Business, Curt adjourned the meeting at 2:50pm. Next meeting scheduled for April 11,2024.

  
Chairman

3/15/24  
Date

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Treasurer