

Logan Soil and Water Conservation District

324 Co. Rd. 11 Bellefontaine, Ohio 43311

May 20, 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 8:33 AM.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

On a motion by Frank Phelps, seconded by Joe Ramsey, and unanimously carried, the board approved the minutes of the regular March 2020 meeting and the emergency April 2020 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS:

NRCS Updates

The following NRCS updates were given:

EQIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program):

- Sign up cut off for 2020 program year was March 20th
 - Working on completing ranking and cost estimates
 - Currently there are 19 application pending in the office
- Practice completion and construction of practices are moving forward
 - Payments have been made for forestry practices, seedings, and livestock watering systems
 - Dry stack is currently under construction

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- Currently 4 application on file
- Sign up deadline is May 29
- Re-Enroll opportunity was provided to expiring 2015 and 2016 contracts
 - Eligible for an additional 5 years
 - 8 applications for re-enroll have been signed

ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program)

- 4 Wetland Reserve Applications
- 4 Farmland Preservation Applications
 - Both programs are being ranked and ran by the field office now instead of the state office staff

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 8 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.
- Training with American Farmland Trust is the 21st and 28th on facilitating Virtual Learning Circles

ODA Updates

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

MNM & Technical Updates

Steve reported that we did have 1 manure complaint and it was passed on to ODA as it is a permitted facility. Steve also reported he has gotten some drainage issues that he has visited with the recent rains. The board suggested making a protocol that could possibly be passed out on who to call and what action can be taken if you desire to further pursue drainage issues that are beyond the capabilities of our offices. Steve is currently working on checking waterways.

Steve also reported that we got a collaboration request for a grant that American Farmland Trust is applying for by Mark Wilson. Frank Phelps made a motion to contact them and find out more details to possibly pursue this collaboration. Joe Ramsey seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

Board Reports

Tim Lyden gave an update on the cover crop roundtables. Once small gatherings are again allowed, we will determine a meeting place and once again try to host a roundtable or two on cover crops.

FINANCIAL REPORTS:

The financial reports were reviewed as emailed. On a motion by Frank Phelps, seconded by Eric Johnson the financial reports for the month ending March 31, 2020 and April 30, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Jennifer Snipes let the board know that we still had the Ohio Envirothon Donation to determine. The Ohio Envirothon was cancelled in person, but a test was done online. Joe Ramsey made a motion that Jennifer would find out if the donation would be carried until 2021 since the in person Envirothon was cancelled for this year or what expenses were incurred for the online testing and that Steve and Jennifer could determine if the donation would be made. Eric Johnson seconded that motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jennifer gave an update that the previously approved scholarships for Camp Canopy were not needed as it was cancelled for 2020 due to COVID 19.

Jennifer also gave an update that we were contacted after the last meeting from the outsourced firm doing our audit and they were wondering if they could do ours via online and offsite due to COVID 19. Jennifer informed them that we want ours done on site. They have not yet contacted us again to start ours, but it is known that they have started other counties.

NEW BUSINESS:

As we no longer have the ability to currently hire an entry level technician with budget cuts, Jennifer will send a letter to all applicants informing them that we are not able to hire at this time but will keep their application on file.

Jennifer provided the board with the updated inventory list and it was signed to be filed.

Jennifer notified the board that the internal review was completed and is ready to be sent to Jocelyn.

Jennifer let the board know that the Form 11 and all subsequent paperwork is ready for signatures and to be submitted. It was signed by the Fiscal Agent for submission.

Frank Phelps made a motion to forgo the Annual Meeting this year in favor of something simpler due to the COVID 19. Eric Johnson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. A determination of what will be done in conjunction with the annual election will be decided at a future date.

Jennifer gave updates on the Tree and Pollinator Plug sales, delivery, and distribution.

As there was no further business, a motion was made by Eric Johnson at 9:29 AM to adjourn. Joe Ramsey seconded the motion. Motion unanimously carried by the board and meeting adjourned.

Tim Lyden, Chairman

Frank Phelps, Secretary

Jennifer Snipes, Recording Secretary

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

Next Regular Meeting Date: June 17, 2020 at 8:30 a.m.

UNOFFICIAL