

Branch County Conservation District
Board Meeting Minutes from August 7, 2018
Location: Branch County Fair

Board Members present: Diana Lutz, Bing Johnson, and Duane Clover

Staff present: Kathy Worst

The meeting was called to order by vice-chair Diana Lutz at 7:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report: The District Board meeting minutes for July were reviewed. Bing Johnson moved to accept the minutes, with one correction; Duane Clover seconded the motion; the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report and Payment Voucher List for the last month were reviewed and discussed. There is currently a bank balance of \$67,792.12, which includes \$51,700.39 in the checking account, \$14,935.15 in the savings account and \$1,156.58 in the checking merchant account. Bills in the amount of \$9,673.03 have been pre-paid and \$1,919.70 still needs to be paid out. Duane Clover made a motion to approve the treasurer's report and payment of all bills including the pre-paid bills, Bing Johnson seconded; the motion carried, and the treasurer's report was put to file for audit.

New Business:

MACD Dues Structure and Value Survey: Kathy walked through a survey from MACD designed to help guide MACD's future funding and activities. The board made decisions based upon each question including the structure of Dues to be paid to MACD from all districts, preferring that all pay one of two levels depending upon capacity to pay; with everyone paying something. Kathy completed the survey online as directed by their responses.

Client tree issue Kathy received a call concerning White cedar trees that did not survive after planting. She contacted the nursery, who said they had several failures in the cedar last spring and would replace them in the spring sale. The board agreed to replace them regardless of the nursery's response.

A City of Coldwater Planting requested assistance planting some neighborhood areas. Diana and Bing said it looked like a great project and to go forward with this when we can.

Old Business:

Land Judging Day looks like it will be October 11th. Only two schools have indicated they would be there so far. We do need a site.

Regarding our Fiscal 2018 Audit a motion was made to accept the offer from Taylor, Plant and Watson at a cost of \$4,400 by Duane Clover; seconded by Bing Johnson; the motion carried.

Kathy noted we are still working on the FY18 budget amendments and FY19 budget materials. We have had delays due to changing and unknown dollar amounts for both fiscal years.

The CTAI hiring is progressing. We have had one interview so far, with four more planned this week.

Concerning the state sales tax issue, we still have not heard anything. According to our records, the state still owes us the withheld funds totaling \$611.00 from our HAP reimbursement.

Our No Till Drill, while in use continues to be up and down for repairs. We have had additional issues and Ken Kesson has placed it on his repair list during our down time.

The Natural Shoreline programs with MSUE are progressing for August 18th. We only have 4 people signed up at this time and some issues have arisen with our partner, which may need to be addressed.
Bronson Golf Course - nothing new, yet. Waiting to hear from Mike Hard and Trent Arver.
Smith district Issues - nothing new.
Mission Statement - nothing new.

Directors' and Staff Reports

Directors:

Bing Johnson discussed the possibility of meetings with DTE and people from the opposing side to cover pros and cons of wind generators in the county. This is intended to help the board develop an official position. The board agreed to hear both sides. Bing will set up presentations for our October and November board meetings.

NRCS District Conservationist: Marcus Reynolds – Absent

CTAI Specialist: Sheila Wald - Submitted written reports.

MWSP / MAEAP Technician: Mike Censke - Submitted written report and a request to clear an activity for a St. Joseph CD fundraising event. The board approved this on his own time as it involved a private band he is working with, but not something related to normal district duties.

Farm Bill Biologist: Lyndsay Morrison -Submitted written report.

Conservation District Administration: Kathy Worst – requested more input on new software security. The board told her to decide which product. She also discussed possible interns coming to the office from the BACC, which could help us and would be more long term than normal.

Public Comments: none

Adjourn: the meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Insa Raymond, secretary.

Insa Raymond

Signature

9-11-18

Date