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**STEBEN COUNTY  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

*Peachtree Plaza 200 – 1220 N 200 W STE L – Angola, IN 46703*

*260-665-3211, Ext. 3 - [www.steubenswcd.org](http://www.steubenswcd.org)*

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**STEBEN COUNTY SWCD BOARD MEETING**

**Steuben County Community Center – 317 S. Wayne Street, Multi-Purpose Room, Angola, Indiana 46703**

**September 13, 2023**

**IN ATTENDANCE**

District Supervisors

Kayleen Hart, Chair

Beth Williams, Board Supervisor

Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation

District (SWCD)

Janel Meyer, Administrative Coordinator

Aimee Wentworth, Resource Conservationist

Absent

Chuck Howard, Board Supervisor

Craig Holman, Board Supervisor

David Perkins, Board Supervisor

Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)

Arthur Franke, District Conservationist

Associate Supervisors

Brad Hamlin

Ryan Waite

Public Attendees

Niann Lautzenhiser, Steuben County 101 Lakes Trust

Board Chair Kayleen Hart called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Due to the lack of a quorum at the beginning of the meeting, no substantive business was considered. Board Chair Hart asked NRCS District Conservationist Arthur Franke and staff to provide updates on the non-actionable agenda items as the last time the SWCD Board met was July 12, 2023.

- Art reported he has a list of 15 to 20 individuals interested in submitting applications for the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) for FY24. There is also funding available for agronomic-related practices in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB) through a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant. Additional monies are also available for the RCPP Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds (GGS) grant; signup will begin this fall. A soil conservationist has been assigned to the Steuben County USDA office and will begin in October.
- Kayleen Hart, Farm Service Agency (FSA) Program Technician, reported FSA is concluding FY23 duties (completing reports, crop loans, organic cost-share, etc.). October 1 is the beginning of FY24 for the federal government.
- Administrative Coordinator Janel Meyer and Resource Conservationist Aimee Wentworth shared information about activities, meetings, and field days/workshops the SWCD conducted and/or participated in. They also advised they are currently working with City of Angola/Trine University MS4 Coordinator Kris Thomas on planning the annual contractor workshop which will be held in early December.
- Janel shared the Dekalb/Steuben Urban Soil Health (USH) Working Group has officially been formed with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Indiana Association of Soil and Water Conservation District (IASWCD) USH program. The working group name is "Soil Guardians of DeKalb-Steuben"; the mission is "Caring for Common Ground – working together to protect, restore, and enrich the soil that sustains us". The group will be working on plans to officially "launch" the working group in 2024.
- Janel reported she did not submit a Clean Water Indiana (CWI) grant application. She wanted to wait until next year when she had adequate time to devote to outlining a realistic budget and obtaining additional partner support.
- Aimee has the Augmented Reality Sandbox (ARS) back in service. She fixed it by running through the initial setup calibration procedure. Tami Mosier (Purdue Extension) has asked her to bring the unit to Fremont and Angola Middle School at the end of October.
- Thank you cards the SWCD received from Steuben County 4-H members were provided for review. The cards were in recognition of the monetary support the district provides for award sponsorship.
- Board Chair Hart approved August and September claims per the adopted May 12, 2020 Steuben SWCD Board meeting motion (i.e., allows the unit fiscal officer to coordinate with the Board Chair for approval to pay claims in the event the Steuben County SWCD Board of Supervisors are unable to meet).
- NRCS, FSA, and SWCD staff ended reporting updates at 6:40 p.m.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**October 4, 2023 – 5:00 p.m.**

- Angola USDA Service Center, 1220 N 200 W, Suite L, Angola, IN.