

Ross Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Wednesday November 8, 2023
Ross County Service Center
Conference Room D

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

The board of supervisors met at the Ross County Service Center in conference room D. The meeting was called to order at 5:37 p.m. by the presiding officer, Chairman, Brice Acton.

District Supervisors present and in person: Brice Acton, Nancy Ames, Philip Gray, and Billie Helterbrand
District Supervisor not present and excused: Pam Snyder

District staff present and in person: District Administrator, Bob Neal and District Technicians, JT Flowers and Ben Givens. Professional staff present, Landry Roe, District Conservationist. There was one guest present: Charlie Clark representing the Colerain Township Volunteer Fire Department.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Charlie Clark addressed supervisors about the Colerain Township Volunteer Fire Department. The township wants to increase its rating with an insurance rating service by certifying water sources used for firefighting. Mr. Clark asked supervisors if the board would be comfortable certifying water sources. Staff informed Mr. Clark about recent activities where staff took measurements at two locations where dry hydrants are located. Those measurements had already been provided to Dilan Chamberlin at the fire department. Staff and board members informed Mr. Clark that the district does not have personnel qualified to undertake a study and predict future conditions. The administrator noted he has attempted to contact ODNR officials and a climatologist with OSU Extension.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Supervisors reviewed the previous meeting minutes. Nancy Ames moved to approve the October minutes as presented. Billie Helterbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

The administrator presented details of the November treasurer's report listing bills paid and bills to be paid. The financial obligation report amount is \$99,791.27. Philip Gray moved to approve the treasurer's report, pending approval of the Xerox lease payoff and pending approval to pay office rent, and pay bills in the amount of exactly \$59,128.44. Billie Helterbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

There were no reports.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The administrator presented his written report. The report included information about the Colerain Township project discussed in public comments. Greg Rouse celebrated his 24th anniversary with the district. Greg attended a county wide EMS meeting. Bob attended the county wide CORSA insurance seminar. Bob and Tabby Sharp served as judges in an FFA competition. Fender's Fish Hatchery has selected Tuesday April 30, 2024, as our fish sale pickup day. The administrator stated for the record that he had completed the Ohio Pooled Collateral System (OPCS) annual attestation with the state treasurer's office on October 4th.

DC REPORT

District Conservationist Landry Roe reported the NRCS is still accepting EQIP applications and more money is available from the Inflation Reduction Act. Landry updated supervisors on the high volume of projects with other programs, noting there are waterway projects in the survey and design stage. Landry reported Kelton Collins is scheduled for more training and Julie Kyle is still assisting the Ross office.

FSA REPORT

Supervisors reviewed a written report from CED Katy Roush. Topics included reporting on a productive meeting between FSA, NRCS, and SWCD staff. The USDA has been locked out of CRP software as part of the September 30th continuing resolution and no new Farm Bill. Staff cannot make CRP payments.

WATERSHED MANAGER REPORT

Chris Pancake was not in attendance.

ODA UPDATE

Supervisors reviewed this month's ODA update.

STAFF AND SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

There were no comments.

OLD BUSINESS

XEROX LEASE

The administrator reported U.S. Bank has allowed the district to end the lease for the Xerox printer/copier/scanner. The bank presented two options available through November 30th: Option 1 – Pay \$104.41 PLUS an additional \$500 to \$1,000 to ship the machine back to the bank. Or Option 2 – Pay \$1,037.40 and keep the machine. With the cost of shipping so high and since the machine is in good working order, the administrator recommended keeping the machine (option 2). Simply put, if it's a thousand dollars either way, we may as well keep the machine until it stops working. Brice Acton moved to authorize the administrator to pay U.S. Bank \$1,037.40 to pay off the lease on the Xerox multi-function printer and keep the machine. Nancy Ames seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNUAL INVENTORY

Supervisors reviewed the current inventory sheet. The current GIS computer was added to the list. The discarded Epson printer was removed from the list. Philip Gray moved to approve the inventory sheet. Billie Helterbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

2024 OFFICE RENT

Supervisors reviewed an invoice from the Ross County Commissioners for the 2024 annual rent payment. The district leases Suite H in the Ross County Service Center which is 1,594 square feet at \$13.50 per square foot. Brice Acton moved to approve payment in the amount of \$21,519 to the Ross County Board of Commissioners for the 2024 annual rent payment for Suite H in the Ross County Service Center. Nancy Ames seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

TIMBER HARVEST PLAN

Supervisors reviewed one Timber Harvest Plan. Brice Acton moved to accept staff recommendation to approve the Timber Harvest Plan received on October 17, 2023. Billie Helterbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OFSWCD AREA 5 WINTER MEETING

Supervisors reviewed plans for the OFSWCD Area 5 winter meeting. The event is at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday December 6th at the Emmitt Chapel in Circleville. Tickets are \$23 per person. Philip Gray moved to authorize travel, comp time, and ticket payments up to \$230 for supervisors and staff to attend the OFSWCD Area 5 winter meeting on December 6th in Circleville. Billie Helterbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OFSWCD ANNUAL DUES AND NACD CONTRIBUTION

Supervisors discussed annual dues payments. The chair noted membership is required by OSWCC rules. The NACD contribution is usually \$100 out of district fund. The OFSWCD annual dues invoice arrived. Statewide dues are \$3,309 dollars based on .6% of \$518,126 total funds (\$275,000 in 2023 county funding plus \$243,126 in FY24 state match funding) plus \$200. Area 5 dues are \$200. The administrator requested a motion to transfer funds to pay dues from the Special Fund training account. Brice Acton moved to authorize transfer of \$3,300 from the special fund equipment allocation to the special fund training allocation to pay OFSWCD annual dues and authorize \$3,509 for payment of OFSWCD dues and authorize \$100 from the district fund to pay the annual NACD contribution. Billie Helterbrand seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

OUTSTANDING ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE

Supervisors discussed outstanding drill payments. Consensus is to ask the prosecutor to send a letter.

ISSUE 2 PASSAGE

Following the passage of state issue 2, Brice Acton moved to make Ross SWCD marijuana free. Nancy Ames seconded. Discussion included the fact that the measure was in line with existing alcohol prohibitions in the workplace. The motion passed unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS BUDGET MEETING REVIEW

The administrator presented a slide show prepared for the annual budget review with commissioners scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Monday November 13th. Supervisors reviewed the presentation and suggested changes.

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisors reviewed a thank you card received from McLain FFA for the soil pits event and noted the team would advance to national competition. Other correspondence included the NACD statement and the OFSWCD invoice discussed earlier in the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • CALENDAR

11/10	Veteran's Day - Office Closed
11/13	Commissioners Budget Meeting 10:00 a.m. at Courthouse
11/14	Area 5 Envirothon Meeting 10:00 a.m. at Service Center
11/23	Thanksgiving - Office Closed
11/25	Anniversary of First District Committee Meeting in 1946
11/27-12/1	Deer Season
12/1	Onsite CEBCO Health Screenings
12/6	Area 5 Winter Meeting - Emmitt Chapel in Circleville
12/13	December Board Meeting
1/22-1/24	OFSWCD Partners Meeting in Columbus
3/26/2024	Area 5 HR Meeting at Service Center

ADJOURNMENT

Hearing no other business, the chair moved to approve by unanimous consent to adjourn at 7:41 p.m.

Billie Helterbrand, Secretary

Brice Acton, Chair

Robert Neal, Administrator

Date