

Ross Soil & Water Conservation District
Board of Supervisors Regular Meeting
Tuesday October 11, 2022
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 8:32 a.m. by presiding officer, Secretary, Pam Snyder.

District Supervisors present in person:

Mike Anderson
Pam Snyder

District Supervisors joining remotely:

Brice Acton

District Supervisors not present:

Philip Gray
Greg Ramsey

District Staff present:

Bob Neal, District Administrator
JT Flowers, Engineering Tech
Ben Givens, Engineering Tech
Greg Rouse, GIS Coordinator

District Staff not present:

Tabby Arnold, Engineering Tech (sick leave)

Professional Staff present:

Landry Roe, NRCS DC
Kate Sowards, FSA CED
Cody Hacker, ODA Specialist
Chris Pancake, ODA Watershed Manager

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Supervisors reviewed the previous meeting minutes. Pam Snyder moved to approve the September meeting minutes as presented. Mike Anderson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

The administrator presented details of the October treasurer's report listing bills paid and bills to be paid, including donations to Envirothon FFA teams. The current financial obligation is \$80,256.19. Mike Anderson moved to approve the treasurer's report, pending approval of FFA donations, and pay bills in the amount of exactly \$49,435.30. Brice Acton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Education - Pam Snyder began a review of FFA Career Day by thanking the staff and citing great cooperation from all involved. Supervisors reviewed insightful and meaningful student comments from the event and discussed plans for next year, including possibly more stations.

Envirothon Transportation - The administrator reviewed final research on paying transportation costs for Envirothon teams, proposing direct donations to the FFA clubs that would have incurred transportation costs. Mike Anderson moved to approve a \$150 donation to each of the Adena, Huntington, and Southeastern FFA clubs that incurred transportation costs to attend the 2022 Envirothon. Pam Snyder seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

The administrator presented his monthly report and noted on September 20th the district received notification that Ross County Prosecutor Jeff Marks had reviewed the district's audit.

DC REPORT

District Conservationist Landry Roe reported the CRP push is over, there are just a few plans to deliver to FSA. NRCS is now reviewing next year's expiring contracts. Work continues to progress on the backlog of waterways. CSP re-enrolls are next. Expect an EQIP sign up in the fall. The NRCS still needs to send payments for projects completed this fall. Some EQIP contracts still have work to finish. There is nothing new to report on NRCS hiring.

FSA REPORT

Ross County Farm Service Agency (FSA) County Executive Director (CED) Kate Sowards reported a new program specialist has been hired. Taylor Britton will be concentrating on CRP. Small grain reporting is due December 15th. ARC/PLC payments are being processed. There are 90-95 contracts that were uploaded into the system on time. There are a few on paper (mostly SWCD and county board members).

ODA REPORT - Specialist Cody Hacker presented the monthly ODA update and announced that the annual winter meeting will be held at the Emmett Chapel in Circleville on December 7th. The cost is \$25 per person. Cody reminded staff about Scioto CREP training on November 15'th and reminded supervisors about expanded online training.

WATERSHED REPORT

Region 4 Watershed Manager Chris Pancake reported his team is working on watershed plans from a regional perspective, comparing plans from all seven regions in the state. This process includes assessment of BMPs by region and evaluating performance and goals.

STAFF AND SUPERVISOR COMMENTS

Mike Anderson posed a question about any possible role the district might have about carbon credits.

OLD BUSINESS

EQUIPMENT RENTAL POLICY

The administrator presented research compiled to update the rental rate the district charges to rent the no-till drill. Using formulas from OSU Extension, \$11 or \$12 seems an appropriate amount. Discussion included setting the rate at \$12 now may avoid another increase too soon. Producers get \$24 cost share on projects requiring the drill. Most producers pay the minimum \$100 or just above that. Brice Acton moved to increase the No-till Drill rental rate from \$9 per acre to \$12 per acre effective January 1, 2023 and maintain the \$100 minimum charge. Pam Snyder seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

GIS COMPUTER/SOFTWARE

GIS Coordinator Greg Rouse presented his price comparisons to replace the GIS computer. Comparable models from three vendors (DakTech, \$6,999; Central Computer, \$6,932; and SuperMicro, \$6,835) were compared. The consensus favored the warranty length and price of the SuperMicro model. Greg also reported the district was overdue on renewing the GIS software known as Blue Marble. Mike Anderson moved to authorize the purchase of the SuperMicro GIS computer and renew the annual GIS Blue Marble software. Brice Acton seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

NRCS/RTK COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

With GIS Coordinator Greg Rouse available to answer questions, Supervisors reviewed the cooperative agreement with NRCS for RTK surveying projects. Supervisors asked about the service map page of the agreement. Greg predicted surveying projects could start next spring.

SPECIAL ELECTION

The administrator reported losing contact with a potential candidate. Mike Anderson reiterated his willingness to appear on the ballot. Brice Acton posed questions about the board's options in the new year. Mike signed an EL-1 statement of candidacy.

NEW BUSINESS

STORMWATER REGULATIONS

County Planner Devon Shoemaker is re-writing the Ross County Stormwater Management and Sediment Control Regulations. In an attempt to streamline the process, Devon envisions the district taking over the permitting process for commercial construction. Staff reports that the regulations are not changing but the process is. Staff assessment is that the district can comfortably handle any additional workload.

LAEPP

Supervisors discussed continuing as a local sponsor for the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program. Supervisors voted to approve the board resolution of support that is required for the application. Mike Anderson moved to approve Resolution # 2022-04 authorizing the District to apply as a Local Sponsor for 2023 funding from the Local Agricultural Easement Purchase Program (LAEPP). Pam Snyder seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

BUDGET REVIEW

The administrator presented "high" and "low" scenarios predicting employee salaries for the 2023 budget. The budget calls for the district to request more funding from commissioners. Describing a 20% increase as a "big ask," the administrator noted this would be the first significant increase since 2015. The district should re-emphasize our contribution to county departments through GIS and the planning department. The administrator also informed supervisors of a reserve in the special fund of about \$250,000 and the district fund balance is over \$200,000. The budget will be finalized at the November meeting and presented to commissioners on November 14th.

TIMBER HARVEST PLANS - None received

CORRESPONDENCE

Supervisors reviewed a public notice from Fluor-BWXT.

ANNOUNCEMENTS • CALENDAR

10/11 Adena FFA
10/25 AOS Training in Reynoldsburg
10/29 Halloween Parade
11/6 Return to Standard Time

- 11/8 Election Day
- 11/8 November Board Meeting at District Office (break room)
- 11/11 Veteran's Day - Office Closed
- 11/15 Scioto CREP Training
- 12/7 Area 5 Winter Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Mike Anderson moved to adjourn. Pam Snyder seconded. The motion passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

Pam Snyder, Secretary

Brice Acton, Chair

Robert Neal, Administrator

Date