

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
April 22, 2025
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the USDA Service Center Conference Room. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:36 AM.

Board Members:

Brad Ponsler
Alex Helms
Matt Branham (Absent)
Kevin Morin
Kameron Garlitch

Staff:

Becca McClellan
Maddie Suhre
Andy Ertel

Associates:

Jimmi Berkey

Partners:

Jennifer Kipper
Laura Fibley (ISDA)

Reading of the Minutes:

Kameron Garlitch made a motion to accept the March 2025 Minutes as written, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

Financial Report:

Kameron Garlitch made a motion to accept the Financial Report as written, with a second by Kevin Morin. All in favor.

Correspondence:

Wolf Creative Services- Becca presented an invoice to the board that it was time to update our website renewal. The invoice was \$300.00. Kevin Morin made a motion to pay the invoice, with a second from Kameron Garlitch. All in favor.

Ongoing/Old Business:

Annual Meeting Discussion- This was brought up at the last meeting that was held but was discussed again to see what needed to happen since our numbers are decreasing significantly. The Board presented their feedback for ideas on moving forward in the following years for how to hold a successful Annual Meeting, and what works better for people attending. We will continue to discuss.

Watershed Update (2nd Phase Implementation Grant)- There is a year, and a half left with the current grant. The Board discussed proceeding in applying for a 2nd phase implementation grant. NOI letters are due by June 2nd, our letter was passed around for the Board to review. Kameron Garlitch made motion to continue going forward with another grant application, with a second from Kevin Morin. All in favor.

CWI Update- We have had two applications for our current CWI grant, both have been funded. Continue to share information about this grant with the community. We still have at least \$20k of funding left to allocate.

Geotextile Fabric- Still good on fabric. Tabled until next meeting.

Conservation Mural- Becca, Maddie, and Andy will be picking up the conservation mural from JCHS at 7:30AM April 24th.

New Business:

Staffing- Jennifer Kipper will be retiring, her last day is April 29th. More information to come on who will be the acting DC.

Fair (June 9th-13th)- The Jennings County Fair is scheduled for June 9th-13th. Becca will send out a sign-up sheet soon, she is asking that at least two supervisors/associate supervisors per evening. Monday's topic will be bees with Karen Ferguson speaking. Tuesday's topic is DNR with Maddie Westbrook and Kameron Garlitch. Wednesday is Kiddie Day and snakes and exotic animals. Thursday is invasive species night with Savannah Stout. Friday will not have a specific topic. We will continue to have nightly giveaways; Becca will oversee purchasing items and creating those for the District with a \$500.00 budget.

Elementary School Field Days- 3rd Grade Elementary School Field Days are May 13th and 14th located at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

Capital Spending Plan- The Capital Spending Plan (2026-2031) is due April 30th, the Council will start working on their budget next month. Becca asked what types of items we should include on our Capital Spending Plan. After discussion the following items will be included: drill upgrade, printer/copier upgrade, structure repair, straw blower upgrade, and staff laptops. The Board had questions on the RICOH quote for the new printer, Maddie will contact the sales representative and get answers.

Staff/Partner Reports:

Jennifer Kipper – District Conservationist – NRCS
Written Report

Becca McClellan- SWCD
Written Report

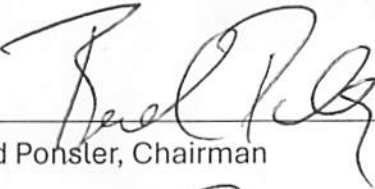
Madelyn Suhre- SWCD
Written Report

Strategic Plan: Annual review and update of the Strategic Plan. Becca will add hay land and pasture objective and other recent activities and events to the document.

Claims: Maddie prepared a packet including a Financial Report and Board Meeting Minutes needing reviewed and signed by the Board Members.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 AM.

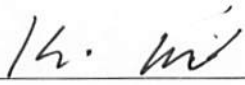
Minutes taken by: Madelyn Suhre



Brad Ponsler, Chairman



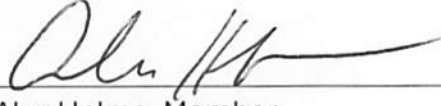
Matt Branham, Vice Chairman



Kevin Morin, Member



Kameron Garlitch, Member



Alex Helms, Member