

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
August 24, 2021
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the Jennings County Community Building due to the Level 2 at the USDA Service Center. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:35 am.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Matt Branham
Tom Schneider
Jimmi Berkey
Bob Steiner
Kevin Morin
Dan Megel

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minute

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the July 2021 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Financial Report

Tom Schneider made a motion to accept the financial reports (July 21, 2021 -August 24, 2021) as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Correspondence

No Correspondence

Old Business

Update on “Ag Economic Outlook Meeting”

Andy reached out to Purdue to see if there were any professors available to speak about the ag economic outlook for 2022, Purdue replied that they had 10 retirements last year are currently spread thin. Andy asked the board if they would like to consider going in a forestry direction, since Forest Land Use is up in J.C. Dan Megel made a motion to pursue the Forestry topic with a second from Tom Schneider. The district staff will reach out to some local professional foresters and DNR to plan the event for late November or early December. A lunch will be served. More details will be provided at the September board meeting.

CCSI Grant

Andy and Kelly met with Watson Signs to get pricing for new signs for field days/parking and the Soil Health Demonstration Field. Kelly passed around the layouts and Matt asked if we could look at a background color change from black to maybe a blue. Kelly will contact Watson signs and have Brandon send a few options in Blue(s), then send out an email for approval by the board.

5th Grade Field Days

Due to the uptick in COVID the staff decided to cancel the 5th Grade Field Day and will plan to resume the educational field days in May.

Budget Hearing Update

Andy attended the budget hearing and shared with the County Council the many items the district is/has worked on. Emphasizing the technical services provided throughout the county. The district did not ask for an increase in our operating budget.

New Business

Elementary Education Future Planning

The district would like to compile a list of folks interested in volunteering for future presenters at our educational field days. To do this we would like to host a current volunteer luncheon to brainstorm new/backup/replacement volunteers.

Calli & Update – Trails & Signs

Andy advised the board that there are some planned expansions of the parking lot at Calli along with new signage marking trails.

Tripton Park Burn

Andy along with other volunteers and the North Vernon fire department are planning to burn at Tripton later this week once the humidity goes down. Some of the board members expressed interest in knowing when so they could possibly attend.

2021 Local Working Group Ranking Process

Andy shared the form that will be used at next months Ranking Session. Jenny explained some of the areas do not apply in Jennings Co and then tried to explain how each of the areas are broken down and how the money is allocated. Before the next board meeting, more data will be presented at the locally led work group meeting hosted by the board.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD
Written Report

District Policy

Claims

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Branham with a second by Tom Schneider at 7:36 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member