

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

Board Minutes

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil and Water Conservation District was held at the USDA conference room. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:02 AM.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler

Matt Branham

Kein Morin

Kameron Garlitch

Associate Board Members

Jimmi Berkey

Staff

Becca McClellan

Deanna Jackson

Andy Ertel

Partners

Jennifer Kipper

Reading of the Minutes

Kameron Garlitch made a motion to accept the July 2024 Board Minutes as submitted, with a second by Matt Branham. All were in favor.

Financial Report

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the financial report as submitted, with a second by Kameron Garlitch. All were in favor. The Balance Sheet & Profit & Loss Statement submitted has been signed off on by all Board members.

Certificate of Deposit: The certificate of deposit that was opened in November 2023 will reach its maturity date on 8/28/24. The board has decided to roll the initial funds plus interest into another CD for 5 Months with a 4.7% interest rate. Kameron Garlitch made a motion, with a second from Matt Branham. All were in favor.

Correspondence

Community Foundation: -Matt Branham made a motion, with a second from Kameron to proceed with the transaction with the Community Foundation.

Ongoing/Old Business

Snake Boxes: -Jeff Yeager & Charlie Daugherty presented an updated design for the snake boxes and said that two electrical outlets would need to be added. The board discussed adding two additional outlets and asked staff to gather a few quotes for those additions. Matt Branham made a motion to gather quotes for the two outlets and to pursue the snake boxes design once Jeff and Charlie come back with a quote on material as long as it was under the \$3,000.00 range, with a second from Kevin Morin. All were in favor.

Conservation Building Updates: -The art class at the Jennings County High School will be updating the mural painting behind the fish tanks. The art teacher, Dana Lawson, informed Becca that the SWCD would be responsible for the cost of the supplies, which could be around \$250.00. There may be other expenses that accrue as well. Kameron Garlitch made a motion to have the mural updated with a budget of \$500.00, with a second by Kevin Morin. All were in favor.

CWI Grant Application: -Becca informed the board that the Ripley County SWCD board was asking if we could increase the grant funding amount from \$35,000.00 to \$50,000.00. The board agreed to change the ask from \$35,000 to \$50,000. She also stated that a designated signatory was needed to sign the grant. Kameron Garlitch made a motion to increase the funding ask to \$50,000.00 and have Becca be the designated signatory, with a second by Matt Branham. All were in favor. The grant will be submitted once the changes have been made.

Resolution: -Becca reminded the board that resolutions are due September 16. No one had any resolutions at this time.

Watershed Update: -Andy gave the watershed update stating that 21 signs have been installed around Jennings and Jackson Counties. The Steering Committee has been working with cost-share participants and \$92,000.00 of our allotted \$130,000.00 has been allocated thus far. Kathleen Hagan (IDEM) sent an email saying more funding was available for current grants. Andy submitted a request for an additional \$100,000.00 with \$80,000.00 going towards cost-share.

Cover Crop Species: -Matt Branham received a quote for cover crops and was quoted less than it was last year. The cover crops selected for this year were: annual ryegrass, turnips, rapeseed, kale, radish, and crimson clover. A soil test will be needed again in 2025. There was also discussion on having a Soil Health Field Day on the demo field for the watershed grant. The board discussed cover cropping with different methods drone disbursement and Matt's air seeder tool. The board thought by having the two results may give more data as to which is the better process in order to pass the information onto other participants. More about this will be discussed at the next board meeting.

New Business

Straw Blower Parts: -A new clutch lever needed to be purchased for the straw blower, the old one had rusted and then broke off. The new clutch lever was \$94.01. The clutch lever had already been ordered and replaced on the strawblower. Matt Branham made a motion to accept purchase, with a second by Kevin Morin. All were in favor.

Canva Subscription: -Becca asked the board if the District would purchase a Canva subscription. Canva is the new Publisher and can be used for various projects such as flyers, newsletters, etc. A subscription for one year is \$120.00. Matt Branham made a motion to purchase a one year subscription, with a second from Kameron Garlitch. All were in favor.

QuickBooks Credit Card Payments: -Deanna asked the board for approval for the SWCD to have the ability to accept credit card payments through QuickBooks. She presented the board with the rates that QuickBooks would charge for transactions. Deanna also wanted approval to pass the transaction fee onto the customer who is utilizing the card payment option. The board approved the use of QuickBooks credit card payments and to charge a 4% fee to the customer when a card is being used for payment. Matt Branham made a motion, with a second by Kevin Morin. All were in favor.

Leadership Jennings County Training Course: -Becca presented to the board that the Jennings County Community Foundation received a grant and was using it to offer a Leadership Jennings County Training that would be offering a 6 session course on educational outcomes for personal and professional development such as leadership skills, networking opportunities, knowledge of local issues, along with several other key elements. Becca stated that she would like to attend these sessions, and asked the board if they would be willing to pay the cost of the courses. The board asked for more information on the classes or a copy of the syllabus before they would make a decision. Becca will gather more information and send out to the board.

Annual Meeting: -Becca asked the board to be thinking of nominees and the Election Committee. Annual Meeting dates and times were discussed, we will be offering PARP/CCH credits and the date for the Annual Meeting is Saturday, March 1, 2025.

Progress Reports

Becca McClellan -SWCD

Written Report

Deanna Jackson -SWCD

Written Report

Jennifer Kipper -NRCS District Conservationist

Written Report

Claims

Deanna Jackson prepared a packet including a financial report and July Board Meeting Minutes for the board members to review and sign.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Branham, with a second by Kevin Morin at 7:37 AM. All were in favor.

Minutes taken by: Deanna Jackson

Chairman -Brad Ponsler

Vice Chairman -Dan Megel

Member -Matt Branham

Member -Kevin Morin

Member -Kameron Garlitch