

# Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

## Board Minutes

Thursday, February 29, 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 6:37AM.

### Board Members

Brad Ponsler

Dan Megel

Matt Branham

Kevin Morin

Kameron Garlitch

### Associate Board Members

Jimmi Berkey

### Staff

Becca McClellan

Deanna Jackson

### Partners

### Reading of the Minutes

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

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the Annual Meeting minutes as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham. All were in favor.

### Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the financial report as submitted, with a second by Matt Branham. All were in favor. The Balance Sheet & P&L submitted has been signed off on by all board members.

### Correspondence

**4-H Award Sponsorship** -Dan Megel made a motion, with a second by Kameron Garlitch to donate \$300.00 for the sponsorship. All were in favor.

### Ongoing/Old Business

**District Truck Insurance** -Becca gave an update that the county was not permitted to carry insurance for the district. The district will continue to carry their own policy.

**Educator Luncheon** -Becca discussed the date and location for the luncheon has been set for April 19th, 2024 at the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge.

**Field Days** -Becca discussed the dates for the 2024 Field Days and the need for the presenters and asked if any board member would be willing to participate Dan Megel said he would be willing to fill in if needed.

**Vernon Fork of the Muscatatuck Watershed Update** -Becca gave an update that the full final draft of the Watershed Management Plan was sent to IDEM. They are going to put together a review committee to look over it and give comments/recommendations before sending it to EPA for final approval. The project is working on its signage project. Watershed signs will eventually be put up throughout the watershed where roads cross over the streams. We are initially planning on doing 30 sites. The signs will identify the watershed and the streams of the crossing. Becca & Deanna have been collecting quotes for these signs in preparation for the next Steering Committee meeting. The next Steering Committee meeting has been changed to Wednesday, March 20th at the Jennings County Public Library at 1:00PM.

**Deer Dumping in Crosley** -Becca gave an update on the complaint of deer carcasses being dumped at Crosley Fish & Wildlife. INDOT has a incinerator that they use for dead animals. The Street and Highway Departments have specific sites they dump animal carcasses that is not located at Crosley. This can be a potential resolution idea for the future.

## New Business

**Election of Board Officers:** Dan Megel a motion, with a second from Matt Branham that Brad Ponsler remain the Board Chairman. Matt Branham made a motion, with a second from Kameron Garlitch that Dan Megel remain Vice Chairman. Dan Megel Made a motion with a second from Matt Branham that Deanna Jackson is nominated as the Treasurer/Secretary and lastly Matt Branham made a motion, with a second by Kameron Garlitch, motion was made that Becca McClellan would be backup.

**Annual Meeting Review** -Overall everyone thought the event went very well, considering the weather and the time frame. In the discussion it was determined that avoiding the Farm Machinery show may result in better attendance. Possibly moving it back to March would be beneficial and leaving it on a Saturday seemed to be a better option from the comments received from the attendees. Kevin Morin brought up that offering PARP credits geared more towards landscaping could potentially bring in more guests, Local business owners in that profession have to drive a few hours away to get those credits with an added expense and loss of a days work. Having a speaker with those credentials could be more beneficial.

**CRP Contract** -Heather Shireman with Bartholomew County SWCD reached out to Becca asking if Jennings County SWCD would like to renew their CRP contact. After much discussion it was decided that Becca and Deanna would pull folders and gather the needed information, but would not continue to do the field status reviews. This would be done outside of work hours and Becca & Deanna would be considered contract employees with Bartholomew County SWCD. Matt Branham made a motion that Becca and Deanna could do contract work as long as it was not on county time. with a second by Kevin Morin. All were in favor

**Board Meeting Times** -Kevin Morin stated that it was hard for him to make 6:30AM meetings due to his business starting at 7:00AM and the need for him to prep his crews on jobsites. It was decided to move the board meetings to 6:00AM starting in March and in the winter months the time will be re-visited and evening meetings might be considered.

**Accounting Software** -The discussion of upgrading QuickBooks is still ongoing. Kameron Garlitch made a motion and a second by Kevin Morin for Deanna to work with Erica Hamilton at Hamilton Tax Service for the time being to get the payroll taxes in order and weather to continue with that service would be discussed at the next meeting.

**Telework** -Jennifer Kipper asked Becca to mention the possibility of a government shutdown due to the budget deadline not being met. Becca mentioned that the County Handbook states that the Commissioners have the authority to approve teleworking. Brad said that he would reach out to the County Commissioners to ask if the Board could have the authority to approve telework when necessary.

**Progress Reports**

***Becca McClellan*** -SWCD

Written Report

***Deanna Jackson*** -SWCD

Written Report

***Jennifer Kipper*** -NRCS District Conservationist

Written Report

**District Policy**

All 2024 District Policies have been updated & signed

**Claims**

Deanna Jackson prepared a packet including a financial report and January's board meeting minutes for the board members to review and sign.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Megel, with a second from Kevin Morin at 8:31AM

Minutes taken by: Deanna Jackson

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Chairman

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Vice Chairman

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Member

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Member

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Member