

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
February 25, 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 6:37am.

Board Members:

Brad Ponsler
Dan Megel (Absent)
Matt Branham (Absent)
Kevin Morin
Kameron Garlitch

Staff:

Becca McClellan
Maddie Suhre
Andy Ertel

Associates:

Jimmi Berkey

Partners:

Jennifer Kipper

Reading of the Minutes:

Kameron Garlitch made a motion to accept the January 2025 Minutes as written, with a second by Kevin Morin. All in favor.

Financial Report:

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

Correspondence:

4-H Awards Sponsor- Becca presented that our office had received a letter from the Jennings County 4-H Council to see if we were interested in a donation. It was researched that we paid \$300.00 in donation last year. All board members agreed to the donation amount, Kameron Garlitch made a motion to pay \$300.00 the same as we did the previous year, with a second from Kevin Morin. All in favor.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC &D- The District received a dues letter from Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D. The Board asked Maddie to follow up with Kim Jolly and ask what the membership covered. This is tabled until the March meeting when more information will be presented.

Newspaper Renewal- The newspapers subscription was renewed for another year; the cost was \$44.00.

Website Renewal- This item needed further information before the next scheduled meeting to get all payment information needed. It needed to be researched if the website domain had been paid.

IASWCD 2025 Annual Dues- The District received an invoice from IASWCD for 2025 Annual Membership Dues. 2025's membership dues is \$3,788.68. Kameron Garlitch made a motion to pay \$3,788.68, plus the additional 10% (\$378.67) making the total invoice to be paid \$4,167.55, with a second from Kevin Morin. All in favor.

Ongoing/Old Business:

Accounts- The Annual Audit and AFR has been completed and submitted. Maddie will need to replace Deanna on the banking accounts since Maddie is the Fiscal Officer. Kameron Garlitch made a motion to

remove Deanna Jackson and add Maddie Suhre to the bank accounts, with a second from Kevin Morin. All in favor. The Money Market interest rate was change to 0.75%.

Watershed Update- Andy gave an update that the watershed is still promoting the cost-share program, and that there is still around \$80,000.00 left to allocate. There is one year, and ten months left in this grant. And that the Board needs to start thinking if they are wanting to apply for round two and will they be able to secure enough in-kind match for another round of funding.

CWI Grant- Becca gave an update about CWI grant reimbursement. Laura Fribley send an email in response to CWI grant reimbursement that was talked about in the February (2025) meeting. This is from Laura's email: I wanted to comment on this piece just in case you were watching funds closely.... *"Becca submitted a request from ISDA for the first 50% of grant funding (\$25,000.00). We are able to request more funding in July when the first report is due. There is also an option to request funding more frequently, but a report must be completed and submitted with each request."* The first 50% is given upfront. From there, it's only paid in arrears. So for example if by July 31 you've only spent \$24k, you can't request any more. But if you'd spent \$30k, yes, you could request that next \$5k. Hope that makes sense. Please give me a call if you have questions.

Electrical Work at Conservation Building- Becca spoke with Commissioner Sporleder regarding electrical work at the Conservation Building, and Commissioner Sporleder suggested talking to Justin Fox who is ahead of the Maintenance Department for the County, he is an electrician. Becca met with Justin and discussed what was needed in the Conservation Building and they went out to the site. Justin will be able to work on the electrical work and said he will have the project done by April 1, 2025.

Annual Meeting Final Details- Becca let the board know that caterer was called with a final count, speaking parts have been emailed out to Board Members and a copy will be left on the podium during the meeting. Set-up will be Friday at 10:00am. The day of Board Members need to arrive at 7:15am, doors will open to the public at 7:30am. The catering company will arrive a little before 7:00am, so Becca is planning on arrive to the Community Building at 6:45am.

New Business:

CWI Training Reimbursement- Becca submitted for CWI Training Reimbursement in the amount of \$940.00. We have received the reimbursement.

Geotextile Fabric- There are four rolls of geotextile fabric out back. Maddie received quotes from Drainage Solutions 4, 5 & 6 rolls of Geotextile Fabric. This item was tabled for now and will be a reoccurring item on the agenda until more fabric is purchased.

QuickBooks Pricing- This matter needed to be changed from Elite Payroll to Core on QuickBooks. Also, that Maddie needed to do research before the next board meeting to see why the pricing keeps jumping every month. Our office needs to keep QuickBooks to send automatic payments to IDOR and IRS. Kameron Garlitch made a motion to change the subscription to Core, with a second by Kevin Morin. All in favor.

Committees/ Events- There are a couple of events Becca is interested in being involved in through the District. The Active Transportation Committee is partnering with INDOT and the Sheriff's Office to provide Bike Safety Classes within the elementary schools and provide each second grader with a helmet. Becca would like to help with the three (Graham Creek, St. Mary's School, and North Vernon Elementary) elementary school classes on February 27th. The next event is Christmas in the City. Becca asked if she could represent the District on this committee. She said would not be on County time during the Christmas in the City event, but would volunteer her own time. The group discussed the District's Vision and Mission Statements and agreed these events fit the Vision and Mission Statements. Kameron Garlitch made a motion for Becca to be apart of these events and to represent the District, with a second from Kevin Morin. All in favor.

Staff/Partner Reports:

Jennifer Kipper – District Conservationist – NRCS
Written Report

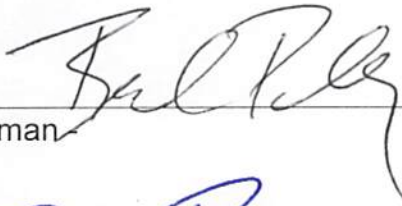
Becca McClellan- SWCD
Written Report

Madelyn Suhre- SWCD
Written Report

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 7:55am.

Minutes taken by: Madelyn Suhre



Chairman



Vice Chairman -



Member



Member

Ka. mc.
Member