

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

January 25, 2024

Board Minutes

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

Staff

Becca McClellan
Deanna Jackson
Andy Ertel

Associate Board Members

Jimmi Berkey

Partners

Jennifer Kipper

Reading of the Minutes

Dan Megal made a motion to accept the November 2023 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 Dan Megel. All were in favor. The Balance Sheet & P&L submitted has been signed off on by Brad Ponsler & Matt Branham

Correspondence

IDEA membership dues for 2024 -The dues were approved, and a check was written 1/18/24 for \$50.00 (\$25.00 for Becca & \$25.00 for Deanna) Check # 1480

2024 IDEA training program in Plainfield, IN -Becca presented to the board to stay overnight. Dan Megel made a motion to approve the overnight stay, with a second by Matt Branham. All were in favor.

12th Annual Regional Soil & Health workshop in Salem, IN -February 6, 2024.Need to RSVP by January 31st.

Ongoing/Old Business

CREP -Becca discussed that we have been selected as CREP administrator for the Flatrock-Hawcreek watershed and the plans for the 2024 year. Matt Branham made a motion to be a CREP administrator for the Flatcreek-Hawcreek Watershed. With a Second by Dan Megel. All were in favor.

The SWCD is ordering apparel for Deanna Jackson with the SWCD logo. Dan Megal made a motion to approve the purchase for the apparel, With a second by Matt Branham. All were in favor.

Annual Meeting -Becca discussed the progress of the planning of the annual meeting. She stated the upcoming itinerary, and asked who could help set up on Friday. Assignments for opening, invocation and closing were chosen. Brad Ponsler will be doing the opening, Jimmi Berkey will be doing the invocation, Matt Branham will be responsible for the election and results. And Dan Megel will be doing the closing. Becca stated to run an ad in the North Vernon paper would be around \$70.00, Jimmi thought it would be a good idea to put the flyer in the newspaper, Matt Branham made a suggestion for the advertisement in the paper, to give \$2.00 dollars off if someone were bring the newspaper ad with them to the meeting, This would be a way to see if doing the ad in the paper would be beneficial. Dan Megal made a motion for an ad to be ran in the paper, with a second from Matt Branham. All were in Favor.

Dan Megal made a motion to approve putting a down payment down for the catering service, With a second by Matt Branham. All were in favor.

It was decided that everyone on the board would wear watershed polos to the meeting.

Vernon Fork of the Muscatatuck Watershed Update -Andy reported that the watershed plan was 99% complete. The cost share component is \$130,000, the steering committee will be meeting at the library to discuss how the cost share funds will be spent.

New Business

Community Garden -Becca presented a plan for a community garden. JC SWCD would be partnering with Urban Soil Health, with the help and leadership from Megan Ayers from Urban Soil Health. A rough draft plan and design were included for the project. The community garden would be located at Muscatatuck County Park, Becca felt that this location would be a good place to hold workshops and educational events. Becca stated that Megan has advised her that Urban Soil Health would be the main contributor for the project.

Educator Luncheon -Becca presented to the board that she would like to host a luncheon for the volunteers for the field days to show appreciation for the work and time they provide. This would be hosted at the Wildlife refuge in March or April. Matt Branham made a motion to approve the luncheon, with a second by Dan Megel. Brad Ponsler approved the motion. All were in favor.

Watershed Project Interest -Kathleen Hagan from IDEM reached out about two new TMDL's. Becca discussed the upcoming plan for the TMDL. Graham Creek and Otter Creek might be selected in the next 10 years. It was determined that the board will take this into consideration and would possibly have interest after further discussion in the future.

Progress reports

Andy Ertel -319 Grant Education Coordinator
Written Report

Becca McClellan -SWCD
Written Report

Deanna Jackson -SWCD
Written Report

Jennifer Kipper -NRCS District Conservationist
Written Report

District Policy

A district policy has been put in place for the Certificate of Deposit that was implemented in December. The policy has been signed by Brad Ponsler & Matt Branham

Claims

Deanna Jackson prepared a packet including a financial report and November'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 Matt Branham at 8:10am

Minutes taken by: Deanna Jackson

Minutes Approved By:

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Member

Member

Member