

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
January 29, 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 11:36am.

Board Members:

Brad Ponsler
Dan Megel
Matt Branham
Kevin Morin
Kameron Garlitch

Staff:

Becca McClellan
Maddie Suhre
Andy Ertel (Absent)

Associates:

Jimmi Berkey

Partners:

Jennifer Kipper
Jenny Rowland (ISDA)

Reading of the Minutes:

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the November 2024 Minutes as written, with a second by Kameron Garlitch. All in favor.

Financial Report:

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the Financial Report as written, with a second by Matt Branham. All in favor.

Correspondence:

IDEA Dues- Becca presented that there was a raise in dues for 2025 to \$50.00 a person. Matt Branham made a motion to pay \$100.00 for Becca and Maddie's IDEA Membership Dues, with a second from Kameron Garlitch. All in favor.

Coffee Creek Conservation Club- Coffee Creek Conservation Club gave a \$500.00 donation to the SWCD to be used to save butterflies, honeybees & songbirds. Becca suggested using the donation to build another raised bed in within the Pathway and purchase two plant pots. The board agreed that was a good idea.

Ongoing/Old Business:

Watershed Update- Becca reported the Spring Watershed Newsletter has been sent out and Andy and Heather are still gathering cover crop in-kind match.

Annual Meeting- Becca gave the board their Annual Meeting tickets to sell and a flyer with detailed information about the meeting. RSVPs are due February 14th. The office staff will be setting up for the meeting Friday, February 28th (the day before the meeting) for those who are able to help. Speaking parts for the meeting were also assigned.

AFR Audit Team- The AFR is still being worked on and will be sent to Erica Hamilton to be reviewed. Kameron Garlitch and Kevin Morin will be reviewing the AFR and signing off on it as soon as it is returned from Erica. Once the audit has been completed by Kameron and Kevin, Deanna Jackson will be removed from all the accounts and replaced with Maddie Suhre.

CWI Grant- Becca and Maddie met with Kim Jolly and Steve Franklin (Ripley County SWCD) to discuss the CWI. Ripley County will be mailing their in-kind cash match of \$5,000.00 soon. 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. Jenny Rowland will be available to help with site visits, plans, calculations, and etc. throughout the program.

New Business:

The Garden- After meeting with Megan Ayers (USH), Seth Jones (Executive Director for County Parks and Recreation), Avis McGovern (County Park Board President), Jennifer Kipper, Emily Peterson (Purdue Extension, ANR), Maddie, and Becca The Garden location will be moved from the old horseshoe pit to the area behind the splash pad and playground area near the park hall building. The Garden will be expanded from the 50' x 50' area to a 50' x 70'. Megan is putting together a tentative timeline and a rough sketch of what will be included within the garden.

District Apparel- A District Policy will be written up for purchasing SWCD apparel. Matt Branham made a motion to approve a budget of \$400.00 for new employees after 90 days of employment and \$200.00 annually for existing employees, with a second by Kevin Morin. All in favor. Becca will get the new policy typed and ready to be signed at the February Board Meeting.

Soil Sample Pricing- With shipping prices due to be increased soon, Becca informed the board that we charge \$15.00 per soil sample and pay \$21.75 per soil sample. After much discussion it was decided to keep soil samples at \$15.00 per sample allowing a more affordable price to landowners.

Educator Luncheon- Becca would like to host another educator luncheon for the field day educators and provide them each with a water bottle that has the district logo on it to show our gratitude and appreciation. Everyone agreed to continue with the luncheon and to order water bottles.

Certificate of Deposit- The CD has matured; the new CD rates are 4.2% for 5 months or 3.9% for 9 months. Matt Branham made a motion to renew the CD at 4.2% for 5 months, with a second by Kameron Garlitch. All in favor.

Staff/Partner Reports:

Jennifer Kipper – District Conservationist – NRCS
Written Report

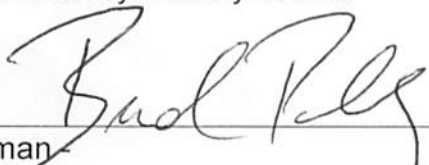
Becca McClellan- SWCD
Written Report

Madelyn Suhre- SWCD
Written Report

Claims: Maddie prepared a packet including a Financial Report and November Board Meeting Minutes needing reviewed and signed by the board members.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn was made at 1:01pm by Dan Megel, with a second by Kevin Morin. All in favor.

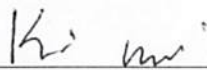
Minutes taken by: Madelyn Suhre



Chairman -



Vice Chairman -



Member



Member



Member