

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

Board Minutes

Tuesday July 23, 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 6:10AM.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Dan Megel
Kevin 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 June 2024 minutes as submitted, with a second by Dan Megel. All were in favor.

Financial Report

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

Correspondence

4-H Thank You Card: -The SWCD received a Thank You card from the Jennings County 4-H Extension office to thank the SWCD for their donation.

Ongoing/Old Business

Updating Snake Boxes: -Becca is working with Jeff Yeager on updating the snake boxes at the Conservation Building. Jeff will get a quote together to share with the board. More information to come.

IRS Update: -Deanna and Becca met with the IRS at the Indianapolis office on July 11th to discuss the ongoing 2022-2024 Payroll Tax debacle. A few things were able to be taken care of during this appointment and the rest would be reviewed by a group (put together by the IRS). We were told to give them at least six weeks to review the paperwork submitted through the mail before contacting again.

Watershed Update: -Andy gave an update on the Pasture Walk event from July 16th. Robert Zupancic (Southeast Grazing Specialist) led the 35 attendees through a pasture walk and discussion then ended with a Q&A. Everything went smoothly and there was great engagement with the participants. Heather Wirth has appointments with several landowners applying for cost-share and we are hoping more will apply.

Local Working Group: -Jennifer gave her thoughts on the discussion at the last board meeting where it was talked about having the local working group as a separate event or adding it to upcoming events in the area. Her thoughts were to send out letters and have a separate event such as during a board meeting closer to the time it is due which is at the beginning of October. It was decided to hold the LWG meeting after the August board meeting. It was also suggested to incorporate it, if possible, at the Annual Meeting going forward.

CWI Grant: - Ripley County has agreed to partner with Jennings County and asked that Jennings County take the lead. Becca has written a rough draft for the grant and waiting for more information from Ripley County for the grant to be complete. After reviewing the draft, Kameron suggested adding the HUAP practice, he feels this would be beneficial to more farmers. The board agreed to add the HUAP and keep the ask amount the same. Becca will have another draft ready to be reviewed at the August board meeting.

County Budget: -Becca has submitted draft one. There is supposed to be a Department Head Budget Workshop in August. She will keep the board updated and will notify when the Budget Hearing has been scheduled.

Jackson-Jennings CISMA: -Jennings County has officially joined the Jackson County CISMA. A new name and logo will be created to reflect the two county CISMA. A National Weed Wrangle is scheduled for October 12th, it will be held at Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge - this is a nationwide weed wrangle as well as participation from London, England.

New Business

Geo-Textile Fabric: -It was approved to purchase five rolls of the Geotextile fabric, retail price will remain same. Kameron Garlitch made a motion to approve the purchase with a second from Dan Megel. All were in favor.

IASWCD Resolutions: -Dues are due September 15th

Summer Summits: -Becca passed around the Summer Summit schedule, Brad asked that if anyone wanted to attend to let Deanna or Becca know so they could get them signed up.

Soil Health Demonstration Field: -The board voted to increase the cover crop budget to \$600.00 for the Soil Health Demonstration Field. Kameron Garlitch made a motion with a second from Dan Megel. All were in favor.

Brillion Seeder: -Becca informed the board that a recent renter of the Brillion Seeder told her seed was dispersing heavier on one side. The renter vacuumed the seeder really well then applied seed again and that seemed to help, but noticed it was still applying heavier on the same side as before. Becca ask the board if they had any advice on how to remedy the problem, she had researched and was wondering if it needed to be recalibrated. Brad said he would take a look at the seeder after the meeting.

Paper Shredder: -Deanna asked the board if a paper shredder could be purchased for the office. Deanna researched on Amazon different options and presented those to the board. Dan Megel made a motion with a second by Kevin Morin to purchase a paper shredder. All were in favor.

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 June board meeting minutes for the board members to review and sign.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kevin Morin, with a second from Dan Megel at 7:39 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