

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
June 24, 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 6:30AM.

Board Members:

Brad Ponsler
Alex Helms
Matt Branham
Kevin Morin (Absent)
Kameron Garlitch (Absent)

Staff:

Becca McClellan
Maddie Suhre (Absent)
Andy Ertel

Associates:

Jimmi Berkey

Partners:

Tim Swchipp (Absent)
Laura Fribley ISDA

Reading of the Minutes:

Alex Helms made a motion to accept the April 2025 Minutes as written, with a second by Matt Branham. All in favor.

Financial Report:

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

Correspondence:

Scales N Tails Invoice – Jeff Yeager submitted the invoice for the construction and materials of the new snake boxes in the conservation building. Matt Branham made a motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$5,065.62, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

Ongoing/Old Business:

CWI Grant Update – There is at least \$20,000.00 of funding for Jennings County available, continue to spread the word. Becca has submitted the bi-annual grant update to Laura Fribley for review. The in-kind spreadsheet for January through June 2025 was passed around. Matt Branham made a motion for the SWCD to be a sponsor during SEPACs field day on August 26th. The District can set up a table to promote the CWI grant and watershed grant, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

Watershed Update – The steering committee meeting that was scheduled for tomorrow has been cancelled. There is a year, and a half left of this grant with about \$41,000.00 of cost-share left to allocate. Andy is working on collecting more cover crop in-kind match.

Watershed Update- Becca updated the board that we still have \$41,000 still left to allocate. Also, that there is still one year, and nine months left in the grant. No word on if the 319 grant will continue in 2026.

Fair Recap – There was a great turn out this year, especially Wednesday evening during snake night. The conservation building and pathway looked really nice especially with the updated snake boxes and new mural. Becca will order plaques for the snake boxes and mural to indicate who built and painted them.

New ideas on adding current supervisors, associate supervisors, and staff photos on empty back wall. Maybe adding names of past supervisors and dates served on the board. Becca is still researching new photo frame options as the current ones are warped and breaking from weather changes.

Geotextile Fabric – Matt Branham made a motion for geotextile fabric to three rolls when needed, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

New Business:

IDEA Fall Conference – The Fall Conference will be held in Bloomington, Indiana this year October 15th – October 17th. Matt Branham made a motion to approve staff attending and their stay at the hotel, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape – Ben Taylor met with Becca to discuss new funding opportunities with RCPP through the Southern Indiana Sentinel Landscape. Ben said this program is much like EQIP and CSP, where applicants can apply through their local District Conservationist. Becca will follow up with Tim Schwipps.

CD Renewal/Trust Indiana – Matt Branham made a motion to move the funds from the matured CD into a Trust Indiana account, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor. Becca will work with Cindy Burres Barger to get this done.

A&L Price increase – Starting September 1, 2025, A&L will be increasing their pricing as follows: Most Common Soil & Plant Analysis will be increased 3-5% and Less Automated Analysis will be increased 6-10%. Matt Branham made a motion to keep our price at \$15.00 per soil sample, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

2026 Budget – Matt Branham made a motion to approve the 2026 Operating Budget request of \$20,640.00, increase the Administrative Assistant Salary to \$42,382.00 (a 3% increase), and increase the Executive Director's Salary to \$54,181.00 (the same as the Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Park, Recorder, and Treasurer's salaries with a 3% increase), with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

Staff/Partner Reports:

Tim Schwipps – District Conservationist, NRCS
Written Report

Becca McClellan – SWCD
Written Report

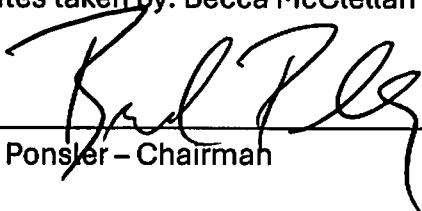
Madelyn Suhre – SWCD
Written Report

Laura Fibley (ISDA) –
gave a verbal report.


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

Adjournment: Matt Branham made a motion to adjourn, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51AM.

Minutes taken by: Becca McClellan



Brad Ponsler – Chairman



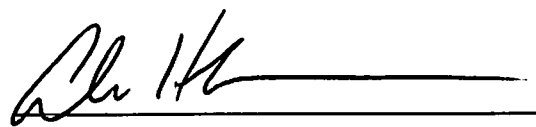
Matt Branham – Vice Chairman



Kevin Morin – Member



Kameron Garlitch – Member



Alex Helms - Member