

# Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

## Board Minutes

Tuesday, March 26, 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 6:03AM.

### Board Members

Brad Ponsler

Dan Megel

Matt Branham

Kevin Morin

Kameron Garlitch

### Associate Board Members

Jimmi Berkey

### Staff

Becca McClellan

Deanna Jackson

### Partners

Jennifer Kipper

Laura Fribley

Megan Ayers

### Reading of the Minutes

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the February 2024 minutes as submitted, with a second by Kameron Garlitch. All were in favor.

### Financial Report

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

### Correspondence

**4-H Donation:** -Deanna gave an update on the status which is that we are still waiting on Community Foundation to get back with us.

## **Ongoing/Old Business**

**IRS:** -Deanna updated the board on the progress with the IRS. It is still an ongoing process, Deanna has made several calls to the IRS and any paperwork that has been submitted recently is still in pending on their end. The SBOA advised in an email to reach out the county attorney to discuss the matter. Becca, Deanna, Brad and Andy have a meeting schedule with the county attorney Alex Zimmerman to discuss how to move forward.

**IASWCD:** -Becca informed the board that at the IASWCD's annual meeting, SWCD delegates approved the Strategic Growth Budget with the variable Dues. JCSWCD dues for the IASWCD were \$3788.18 and are due in September.

**Watershed:** -Andy gave an update on the Watershed and went over that details of the last Steering Committee meeting and the presentation of the speaker at that meeting. Professor Landon Yoder at Indiana University shared raw data on a Nitrogen study. Andy also stated that a plan has been submitted to IDEM and the Watershed is on target with the In-Kind Match.

**Pathway:** -Becca let the board know the current condition of the Pathway at the fairgrounds, and that it is in need of some TLC in preparation for the upcoming fair, April 11th and May 9th were decided on for dates to work there, and any if board members could help it would be appreciated. Becca stated that a new pump and new lava rock would need to be purchased for the fish tanks. Becca also stated that the display walls needed to be repainted. Kameron Garlitch made a motion to purchase new pumps and lava rock, and paint, with a second by Kevin Morin. All were in favor.

**Accounting Software:** -Deanna updated the board with the accounting software, and the direction that the SWCD needed to take to ensure the finances and payroll taxes were in order. In order for the SWCD to continue to work with Erica Hamilton at Hamilton Tax Service, QuickBooks payroll would need to be added to the software. Deanna presented a few scenarios with pricing for a one year term versus paying monthly. The Board agreed to purchase QuickBooks Accounting for another year and add payroll and pay monthly. A motion to purchase QuickBooks Payroll was made by Dan Megel with a second by Kameron Garlitch. All were in favor.

**CREP:** -Becca informed the board that Julie Harrold would need the name of the individual who would sign the contract. The signee would need to be approved by the board. The board approved for Becca to be the signer of the contract for CREP. Dan Megel made a motion, with a second by Matt Branham for Becca to sign the contract. All were in favor.

## **New Business**

**Straw Blower:** -Becca let the board know that the straw blower had to have two tires replaced along with a new battery and two new battery terminal cables. Matt Branham made a motion, with a second from Kameron Garlitch for the work to be done on the straw blower. All were in favor.

**CISMA:** -Becca gave an update on the status of the Jennings County CISMA, Emily McCorkle is not longer able to lead that group for Jennings, Dawn Slack advised Jackson County CISMA and Jennings County to join forces, some of the logistics will still need to be worked out during future CISMA meeting but Jackson County SWCD would continue to be the lead and the fiduciary and Jennings County would just be a partner. Kameron Garlitch made a motion with a second by Kevin Morin for Jackson & Jennings Counties to join together. All were in favor.

**Community Garden:** -Megan Ayers with Urban Soil Health presented the detail of the upcoming events taking place with the garden. Five workshop sessions have been planned and scheduled, each session will cover a different topic, reflecting various tips and tricks to gardening. NRCS will be joining in on the collaboration and FSA is looking in to contributing in someway as well, those details are still being determined. Jennifer Kipper stated that Decatur County will have their annual native plant sale until April 22nd if JCSWCD was interested in purchasing anything from them for the gardens. Becca stated to the board that she would like to use the donation from Coffee Creek Conservation Club for signage for the project. Matt Branham made a motion with a second from by Kevin Morin to use the Coffee Creek donation for a sign to post at the community garden. All were in favor. Becca is going to ask FFA if they would be able to make signs like the ones they had made previously at the Calli Preserve.

**Active Transportation:** -Jeff Walker and a Small group meet to discuss the Active Transportation Plan, which outlines the vision, goals and strategies needed to support an increase level of walking, Biking, paddling and other modes of active transportation other than in a vehicle to promote better quality of life and entice people in physical activity.

**Board Certification Program:** -Laura Fribley the Indiana District Support Specialist Team Leader, Attended today's meeting to discuss the purpose and goals for Board Certification.

## **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 February's board meeting minutes for the board members to review and sign.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Branham, with a second from Dan Megel at 7:24 AM. All were in favor.

Minutes taken by: Deanna Jackson

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Chairman -Brad Ponsler

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Vice Chairman -Dan Megel

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Member -Matt Branham

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Member -Kevin Morin

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Member -Kameron Garlitch