

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
October 26, 2021  
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the Jennings County Community Building due to the Level 2 at the USDA Service Center. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:32 a.m.

**Board Members**

Brad Ponsler  
Matt Branham  
Tom Schneider  
Jimmi Berkey  
Bob Steiner  
Dan Megel

**Staff**

Kelly Kent  
Andy Ertel  
**NRCS**  
Jenny Vogel

**Reading of the Minute**

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the September 2021 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

**Financial Report**

Tom Schneider made a motion to accept the financial reports (September 22, 2021 – October 26, 2021) as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

**Correspondence**

NACD Dues – Kelly reported that we have paid \$250 in dues the past several years. Dan Megel made a motion to pay the 2022 dues of \$250 with a second from Tom Schneider.

Jennings Co Community Foundation Annual Report – the staff shared the written report with board members

There will be a Microsoft Teams meeting for supervisors on Wednesday, Nov. 17 12pm – 1pm. They will receive training on SWCD Finance Basics

**Old Business**

**Update on “Woodland Economic Outlook Meeting”**

Forestry Outlook Update – Due to a change in the speakers availability this meeting has been moved to Thursday, Dec 2. The event will take place at the Jennings Co Community Building beginning at 9am and

conclude with lunch at 12pm. The cost of the event will be shared evenly between Jennings, Jackson and Ripley Counties.

### **IDEA Fall Conference Follow Up**

Andy addressed the board about the great opportunity the staff has been given to attend these conferences. He informed the board that some of the sessions were about bats, soil health and drones. He gave a synopsis of these topics.

### **Elementary Education Future Planning**

A volunteer appreciation luncheon was held last week to see how many of our current volunteers want to continue educating the students of Jennings Co. All of them wish to continue their service with the district. There was some discussion as to a back up location to host the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade event if the federal government will not allow our event to take place at the Muscatatuck National Wildlife Refuge. Tripton Park would possibly be an option.

### **New Business**

#### **Election Committee Appointment**

This year's election committee will be Brad Ponsler, Chair with Kevin Morin and Tom Schneider Kelly will submit this on Conservation Link.

#### **Supervisor Appointment**

The board will appoint Dan Megel to a 3 year term (March 2022 – March 2025). Matt Branham has agreed to run for a 3 year term and the election committee will bring any additional candidate names to the November board meeting.

#### **Annual Meeting**

After discussing options for hosting this years Annual Meeting it was decided that we will plan to do a traditional evening meeting with a meal. The back up plan will be to host a daytime lunch event. The meeting will be held on Thursday, March 10, 2022 at 6pm. At the Jennings Co Community Building with the Rolling Pin catering the meal. Andy will send out a survey to see who/what subject we would like to get a speaker to attend.

#### **IASWCD Annual Conference**

Kelly advised the board that the early bird registration is Oct 15 – Nov 15 at a rate of \$330 per registrant. The hotel is \$112/nt at the Westin. After that the registration jumps to \$385. Kelly will send out the conference information and ask the board members to let her know if they will be attending. The conference is being held January 23 – 25, 2022.

**Agency & Committee Reports**

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

**District Policy**

**Claims**

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Branham with a second by Dan Megel at 7:3\*8 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member