

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
September 21, 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 7:00 a.m. Before that, the 2022 Locally Led Work Group meeting was hosted by the district and began at 6:30 a.m. and closed at 6:58 a.m. Listed below are those present for both meetings.

**Board Members**

Brad Ponsler  
Matt Branham  
Tom Schneider  
Jimmi Berkey  
Bob Steiner  
Kevin Morin

**Staff**

Kelly Kent  
Andy Ertel  
**NRCS**  
Jenny Vogel

**Locally Led Work Group (6:30 a.m. – 6:58 a.m.)**

Andy and Jenny reviewed the information about the Ranking Sheet and the previous 3 years Natural Resource concerns based on applications funded. Those present were able to ask questions then proceeded to do the rankings.

**Reading of the Minute**

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

**Financial Report**

Tom Schneider made a motion to accept the financial reports (August 25, 2021 – September 21, 2021) as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

**Correspondence**

Woodland Steward Newsletter is needing sponsors for the 588 Jennings Co Landowners that receive this. The printing cost are \$305 +/- yearly. Matt Branham made a motion to sponsor at \$325 with a second from Tom Schneider with all in favor.

**Old Business**

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

Andy has been working with Ben McKinney, District Foresters and will have speakers for this meeting.

Chris Gonzo, Indiana DNR Forestry, Marketing & Utilization Specialist, will share the latest news with Timber Market Trends & what's happening with today's timber mills. Joey Galion, Indiana DNR District Forester, Forest Inventory; will show us what 10 years of research talks about the growth of Indiana woodlands from data all over different Indiana woodlands (private and Public. Ben McKinney, Indiana District Forester; will talk about Invasive Species Control and the benefits of doing a Timber Stand Improvement Conservation Practice.

This program will be in partnership with Ripley and Jackson Counties. The 3 districts will share the cost of the lunch provided.

### **Community Foundation Letter**

Andy has been working with the community foundation to expand the parking area available at the Calli Nature Preserve. The Foundation submitted a letter to the County Commissioners to upgrade the road to Calli. They are asking that it be chipped and sealed, the Commissioners approved this.

### **Soil Health Demonstration Field**

The signs should be finished this week and will be installed as soon as possible.

### **New Business**

#### **Maintenance Equipment**

The district staff would like to purchase some items to assist with the maintenance on the Pollinator Pathway and miscellaneous areas that are maintained by the district staff. Items they are interested in purchasing would be: Weed Eater w/blade attachment, Blower, Wheelbarrow, Pitchfork.

The staff will research pricing locally and advise the board at the next meeting as to what kind of cost these items will be.

#### **Elementary Education Future Planning**

Andy recommended that the board give some type of stipend for the volunteers that assist the district with Educational Field Days. Tom Schneider made a motion to pay the volunteers \$50 each per day. All are in favor. A luncheon will be scheduled for some time, in October. Matt made a motion to cover the cost of the luncheon with a second from Tom Schneider, all were in favor.

#### **Tripton Park Burn**

Andy reported that they completed a burn at the park. Also, the NV Plain Dealer, reporter, Kylan Higgs wrote a very nice article highlighting the districts activities.

#### **GGS**

Andy wrote a letter of support from the district for the next round of funding.

#### **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 Tom Schneider at 7:48 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

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Chairman

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member