

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
January 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 6:31 am.

Board Members

Dan Megel
Jerry St. John
Brad Ponsler
Matt Branham
Bob Steiner
Kevin Morin
Kameron Garlitch

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minute

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the November 2020 minutes as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the financial reports (November 18-December 31 & January 1 – January 26) as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

Correspondence

Jennings County 4-H is requesting sponsors for the 4-H Fair Awards Program. The funds that the SWCD uses will come from the Community Foundation Pass through account. Dan Megel made a motion to support the 4-H program with a \$200 Sponsorship, this was seconded by Jerry St. John

Website Design The renewal for our website will be coming due. Matt Branham made a motion to pay the renewal fee to Wolf Web Design with a second from Dan Megel. All were in favor.

Old Business

IAWCD Virtual Conference

Brad reported that he represented the district during the virtual State Soil Board meeting and shared the vote results for the 2 resolutions. Andy reported that the conference overall was very good considering they had to host it virtually. There was a great session about cover crops with the farmer showing how much he was saving in input cost by utilizing a complete no-till system.

Annual Meeting

Newspaper Annual Report & Date

Dan Megel made a motion to purchase a ½ page in the newspaper with a second from Matt Branham. All in favor. The staff has created a layout and Andy will take it to the newspaper for printing in the February 4, 2021

Event Time

The annual meeting will be held at 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. at the Jennings County Community Building. The election will be held, and pizza will be served. The activities and financial report will be given. If time permits after the election the board will vote on officers.

Facebook

Kelly updated the board that we are posting NRCS Programs, Workshops and other environmental or Natural Resource information. We are also posting pertinent information from other districts and partners.

Outlook Email

A group email has now been created to share district information and other important info to landowners in Jennings Co. This currently consists of 456 emails.

New Business

Bank of Depository

The district has been banking with German American and see no need to make a change. Matt Branham made a motion to keep German American as the bank of depository with a second from Dan Megel. All in favor.

New District Operational Manual – Andy and Kelly have spent several days/weeks working on a succession plan for the district office staff. The information has been compiled into (2) 3 ring binders and will serve as a great tool for the next employees to step in and keep the district office running. This will also be used as a tool to share with incoming board members to understand how an SWCD operates.

Nutrient Management Research Project

Professor Yoder at IU School of Public Affairs has contacted our county asking farm operators to participate in a Nitrogen Management project. Andy has contacted some farmers in the area to participate and at this time 6 have agreed to participate.

Those participating will be reimbursed a stipend for their samples submitted. The funding is direct from IU to the participants.

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 Dan Megel with a second by Matt Branham at 7:42 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member