

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
March 30, 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

Dan Megel
Kevin Morin
Brad Ponsler
Matt Branham
Bob Steiner
Tom Schneider – via phone

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minute

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the March 2, 2021 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the financial reports (March 2- March 30) as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

Correspondence

Community Foundation – Matt made a motion to roll over the payout of \$594.61 to the SWCD Pass Through account with a second from Dan Megel. All approved.

Old Business

Disposal of Desktop & Laptop Computers – Kelly shared the information that will be put on Facebook for the sealed bids.

Soil Health Proposal -

Soil Health Proposal – The board decided to move forward on the Soil Health Demonstration Field. Dan made a motion to spend up to \$5000 towards purchasing cover crop species over the next 8 years on a 10-acre area owned by board member Matt Branham. The area will be managed with 5 acres no-till/cover cropped and 5 acres with very light tillage/cover crop. Soil testing, photo collection and other methods will be documented over time.

New Business

Fair – Conservation Building Sign-Up

Kelly will be sending out a sign-up sheet to work in the conservation building each night. The 4-H fair is planning to host a regular fair with a backup plan based on the County Level at the time of the events. They must follow Purdue's guidelines and the local health department. The Fair Board is saying they plan to move forward either way. The district will have to follow the local health department guidelines.

Small Acreage Invasive Species Program

Andy shared with the board that we had applied for a CWI grant that was not funded which included some basic tools for ridding small woodlands of invasive plants. He would like to purchase up to 5 kits for a tool loan program. Matt made a motion to allow the staff to purchase 2 kits to start up to \$500 with a second from Kevin. All were in favor. If these kits get loaned out often, we can revisit if there is a need to purchase additional kits.

Rental Equipment Reviews

Kelly reviewed the cost and agreement for each piece of rental equipment the district owns. After a brief discussion the board agreed to leave the rates and rules the same for 2021.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

District Policy

Claims

Strategic Plan

Review Annual Plan - Andy shared with the board that we have completed about 80% of what we said we would in the 2018 – 2022 plan. We will need to be updating this sometime over this winter.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Megel with a second by Matt Branham at 7:29 a.m.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member