

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
January 27, 2015
Board Minutes

An Executive Session was held at 6:30 PM. with the 5 supervisors and 1 associate supervisor present. The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

Supervisors

Brad Ponsler

Matt Branham

Jerry St. John

Dan Megel

Nathan Burbrink

Associate Supervisor

Tom Schneider

Contracted Technician

Denise Dailey

DSS

Tara Wesseler

Staff

Kelly Kent

Bob Steiner

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the November, 2014 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the November 26, 2014-December 31, 2014 and January 1, 2015-January 27, 2015 financial reports as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

The Annual Financial Report was passed around. This will be submitted to the State Board Of Accounts via Gateway after being signed by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman.

Correspondence

Jackson County Extension Service is hosting their annual Crop Production Workshop at the Pines on Tuesday, February 3. They are looking for Exhibitor and Contributing sponsorships. Kelly updated the board that with the changes to our CWI grant, that this would be a great opportunity to work with Jackson, Jefferson and Scott counties to promote the grant. Jackson County SWCD had already approved to be a Contributing sponsor at \$80. Kelly explained that the 3 other districts would split the remaining \$100 cost provided Jefferson and Scott Counties SWCD boards approved the expenditure. Matt Branham made a motion to pay the additional \$100 to be an exhibitor with a second from Nathan Burbrink.

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D

The HHH RC&D is looking for support from the SWCDs for their annual 2015 dues. The cost is \$250 per year. Dan Megel made a motion to pay the \$250 dues with a second from Jerry St. John.

Agency & Committee Reports

Staff Reports

Bob Steiner

Written report submitted. Bob also reported that the Landfill Inspector, Tim Holtz and 8 others from IDEM were in Jennings County on December 6th to look at issues with the Jennings County Landfill and the Garrett Landfill. Multiple issues were discussed, such as there is a tank of approximately 1000 gallons that is to be pumped out and no one has any idea how long it has been since this has been done. There are monitoring wells that need maintenance and the locks on these are so old they have rusted to it was evident that these have not been checked. Also there has been equipment moved over the landfill leaving ruts which is causing leeching. The board questioned who is to be held responsible for these issues and Bob was unsure.

Jenny Vogel

Written report submitted. Jenny also reported that the 2015 Spending Bill passed and signed giving a \$33.5 million increase in Conservation Technical Assistance. The two key budget cuts in the Farm Bill conservation programs were in CSP cut by 2.3 million acres and EQIP cut from \$1.6 billion to \$1.347 billion. There is an EQIP public comment period that ends February 10th at www.regulations.gov.

Kelly Kent

Written report submitted.

Denise Dailey

Rule 5 – JenAcres is preparing to build 4 new buildings, a retention basin and driveway. Also she is currently working on updating files on past projects in IDEM's database.

Tara Wesseler

There will be a SE Region Training on March 3, 2015 at the Education Training Center in North Vernon from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Logan Gardner will be the featured speaker and Grateful Grubb will be the caterer. There will be breakout sessions for staff and new supervisors then a discussion will be held in regard to the Pathway to Water Quality.

Leadership Institute in Wabash is coming up and this is the Communications series.

Also in August there will be a Chair and Vice-Chair training.

Old Business

Storage Building

Nothing new still waiting on a crew to install

Annual Meeting

The plans are being finalized for the Annual Meeting to be held at the Rolling Hills Shrine Club on Thursday, February 26 at 6 PM. The guest speaker will be Kevin Cox and the meal will be catered by Rolling Pin Catering. Duties for the agenda were assigned to those who volunteered. Each board supervisor and associate supervisor was given 10 tickets to sale for the event.

After some discussion Dan Megel made a motion to award Rick McFall with the Conservationist of the Year with a second from Tom Schneider and Nathan Burbrink made a motion to award Harold Galliher (posthumously) as the Educator of the Year with a second by Jerry St. John.

The staff will be setting up for the annual meeting on Wednesday, February 25th at 1 PM and ask that any supervisor that is available to help would be much appreciated.

NACD Scholarship Opportunity

The board had agreed to apply for an IASWCD scholarship for 2 supervisors to attend the NACD Annual Meeting in New Orleans this year. Jennings County was awarded this scholarship valued at the registration cost of \$890.

Office Computers

The new computers have arrived and we are awaiting the installation by the IT specialist at this time.

New Business

Plat Book app

Matt Branham had spoken to Rockford Publishers who produced our 2013 Plat Book recently at the IASWCD Conference and in speaking with them learned of an app that they have of the county plat that can be used on cell phones or tablets. Bob has it downloaded onto his iPad and Matt has it downloaded on his phone so they were able to show those present some of the features of this app. If anyone would want to purchase it due to a licensing fee the cost would be \$200. However, Rockford Publishers has given the district permission to use on their equipment.

Geo-Textile Fabric

Kelly informed the board that Mike Clancy is now working second shift elsewhere and that the rental business is only open from 11 AM to 1 PM so this will limit when the district will be able to load and sell fabric. Kelly also informed the board that she had contacted Lester Maschino for the 3rd time to come and repair the rack that the fabric is stored upon. She asked the board if there was someone else that they could recommend checking with. Jerry St. John suggested that Kelly contact Doug Layman to see if he would be interested in the job.

Shop Meetings

This year's shop meetings will be held at Nelson Ponsler's on Tuesday, March 17 and Andy Maschino's on Wednesday, March 18. Larry Huffmeyer will be speaking on several topics, along with David Hicks.

The meals will be catered by Grateful Grubb. More information will follow when an agenda is completed.

Rural-Urban Dinner

The Jennings County Chamber of Commerce is looking for sponsors for this year's Rural Urban Dinner. Sponsorship includes space to promote your business. Jerry St. John made a motion to sponsor at the \$250 rate with a second from Nathan Burbrink. The tentative date is Tuesday, March 17 at 6 PM at St. Joseph Hall.

Hands Free Device

Kelly asked the board to consider purchasing a hands free telephone device for her use at the office. Due to a new medical condition she now has significant hearing loss and this would possibly be more accommodating. The board advised checking into this.

Conservation Plans

Bob signed plans as needed.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry St. John with a second by Nathan Burbrink at 8:50 PM
Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant