

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
January 26, 2016
Board Minutes

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 7:00pm.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Dan Megel
Matt Branham
Jerry St. John
Bob Steiner

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

ISDA

Tara Wessler

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the December 2015 minutes as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

Financial Report

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the December 11, 2015 – December 31, 2015 and the January 1, 2016 – January 26, 2016 financial reports as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Correspondence

No Correspondence

Agency & Committee Reports

Tara Wessler – ISDA

Tara reported to the board the following information

- Leadership Institute information has been updated for 2016
- LI in Wabash was cancelled due to lack of participation
- Region Meeting will March 17 in Jennings County
- Legislative Training Day will be February 23 at the Statehouse

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

Committee Reports:

Pollinator Committee – Andy presented the SWCD board with an update on our Pollinator Committee in a PowerPoint Presentation. Dan added that the committee has been working hard on securing some funding for the Pollinator Pathway Project at the fairgrounds and advised the board that the committee may need some funding from the district to kick start until other funding sources could be secured.

Old Business

Annual Meeting

Kelly advised the board that everything is set for the Annual Meeting and asked the staff and board members to please arrive by 5:15pm and reminded them that there will be clean-up at the conclusion of the meeting. The board asked Kelly to send letters to the county officials inviting them to our Annual Meeting and offering their ticket at no cost. Their spouse or guest will be charged the \$12 ticket price. Matt voiced concern about the sound system at the Shrine Club, after some discussion Tara Wessler, stated that the DSS's have access to a sound system and that she could bring it to the meeting provided no one had it scheduled for that evening. Tara will report back to Kelly whether or not she can secure this.

IASWCD Conference Attendee Report

Those who attended the conference felt there were some very good sessions and maybe a few that were not as good but were overall pleased. The district staff and supervisors were able to attend an evening meal and network while attending this conference.

New Business

Designate Bank Depository

Kelly advised the board that each year the district must select their Bank of Deposit. Matt Branham made a motion to continue using PNC as the district's financial institute with a second from Dan Megel. All were in favor.

Shop Meetings

This item was tabled from the previous meeting. The district staff asked the board if these were something they wanted to continue since the attendance had been declining. Matt Branham suggested that maybe we consider hosting more of a training on the proper use of the district equipment since this year we would have more customers utilizing it to plant forbs in their CRP ground. Jenny Vogel stated she had some farmers asking if we were going to continue the Shop Meetings so she felt like we needed to proceed with them. After some discussion it was decided to change some of the details of the meeting. Jenny will be checking with Andy Maschino to see if he would like to host this event at his

farm sometime during the week of April 4th. This will be a one day event beginning in the late afternoon with updates from partner agencies, then a dinner, followed by the equipment training program. The details will be worked out by the staff once the location is secured.

No-Till Drill – Coulter Replacement

The No-Till Drill coulters are showing some wear and need to be replaced. Prices were checked by the district staff and the best price received was \$25 per coulter from Dean Ford. Dan Megel made a motion to purchase the coulters with a second from Jerry St. John. All were in favor. Matt Branham said that if the district could bring the drill out to his farm he would get them replaced.

County Bond Update

Andy gave an update on the districts’ request for replacement of the printer/copier in 2016 and staff computers in 2017. The district had requested \$8000 for these items and the county approved it. Kelly will get the prices on the new printer/copier and present at the next board meeting. Once purchased the district will be reimbursed by the county up to \$5500 for this in 2016.

Conservation Plans

Andy signed plans as needed.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry St. John with a second by Dan Megel at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member