

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
January 23, 2018
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 6:30 pm.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Jerry St. John
Tom Schneider
Bob Steiner
Matt Branham

Staff

Andy Ertel
Kelly Kent

NRCS

Student Intern

Kameron Garlitch

Reading of the Minute

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the October 2017 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Financial Report

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the Nov/Dec & January financial reports as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Correspondence

RCCP – The proposal for Grassland for Gamebirds & Songbirds (GGS), was selected for funding in its entirety. That means it the proposal should receive \$1 million dollars to help implement the initiative. The total budge of the initiative is \$1.833 million. That includes RCPFP funding as well as partner contributions. That budget will finance: the hiring of 3 fulltime grassland biologist positions, development of grassland and pollinator habitat throughout 5 focal regions of Indiana, and implementation of conservation work to conserve and access habitats to important grassland bird species such as the bobwhite quail, ring-necked pheasant, loggerhead shrike, and henslow sparrow.

IANA - NRCS & Indiana Farm Bureau have formed a new non-profit called the Indiana Agriculture Nutrient Alliance. The alliance was formed because they realize that commodity partners like Farm Bureau, along with corn and soybean alliances and livestock groups reach many more farmers than NRCS does. This alliance is formed to reach more farmers throughout the state.

Thank you – Jane Hardisty sent an email to Kelly and asked that she share it with the board of supervisors. At her Nov. retirement party held at the SE area meeting in November she was grateful to the district staff for the food and that Jerry St. John and Brad Ponsler took time to stop by and wish her well.

Rural – Urban – Jerry St. John made a motion to continue a sponsorship of this event at \$250 with a second from Matt Branham.

Plain Dealer – Matt Branham made a motion to continue the district subscription to the N.V. Plain Dealer & Sun. They have been a great supporter of the SWCD for many years and with the Share Some Space campaign. A second was made by Tom Schneider.

Crop Production Workshop – The board opted not to sponsor this event.

SEI – Our agreement is up May 1, 2018 and the new rates will be, Domain Registration is \$15.95/year and Domain Hosting is \$4.95/month. A motion was made by Jerry St. John to set this up on an annual basis, with a second by Matt Branham.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS - Absent
No Report Submitted
Andy Ertel – SWCD
Written Report
Kelly Kent – SWCD
Written Report

Share Some Space – Andy reported that the Pollinator Committee held their “yearend” meeting earlier today and he presented a PowerPoint showing all the work that the committee had completed since June 2015 and then a few things about the future of the project. Also, our committee has increased in members with 2 people joining from attending our “Build your own Pollinator Garden Workshops”.

HHH – Bob reported that Central Muscatatuck Watershed had received additional funding that would run until June 2021. There is \$300k in funding with \$177k going towards a 60% cost share.

Old Business

Annual Meeting Reminders

Awards – The Friend of Conservation winner has been notified and an article written for the Annual Report. Conservationist of the Year winner will be notified later.

Kelly passed out 10 tickets to each board member to sell along with a ticket log.

Event duties will be assigned later.

Build Your Own Pollinator Workshop –

Andy shared that our 2 workshops last week were well attended and that those present were really interested in our Share Some Space project. Over the 2-day period our totals were 63 people including presenters and staff.

Finalize Conference Plans – Kelly had travel packets for each person attending the NACD Conference next week. We covered the agenda items that were required attendance. The group will have dinner together on Monday evening. The hotel will have preauthorization for hotel check-in for each room. Dan & Jerry along with their spouses will be driving down. Kelly & Andy along with their spouses will be driving down. Bob & his wife will be traveling by themselves. Brad & Matt will be driving the district truck to the conference.

State Conference Recap – Brad reported that he thought the conference went well. He advised the board that the 4 resolutions were voted on at the business meeting and the only one that didn't pass was the district name change.

New Business

No new business

District Policy

Nothing New

Strategic Plan

Information on potential objectives will be sent out to board members to review and consider before the next board meeting.

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 Tom Schneider 8:02 pm.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member