

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
January 22, 2019
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 6:32 am.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Jerry St. John
Tom Schneider
Bob Steiner
Dan Megel
Matt Branham
Kameron Garlitch

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minute

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the November 2018 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the November - December 2018 financial reports as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

The 2018 AFR was submitted to the SBOA & the ISDA DSS.

District Staff asked the board to change our bank accounts from PNC to German American Bank so that we would eliminate the service fees for receive a paper bank statement with images of our return checks. Matt Branham made a motion to change account to German American with a second from Tom Schneider. German American will be the new Bank of Record.

Bank of Record – German American effective 1/24/19

Correspondence

Thank You from Brad Ponsler & Family

Corn Yield Contest - A letter about the winner of this year's contest produced 388 bushels to win the title.

Terrestrial Invasive Plant Rule – IDNR had ask the districts to write in support for the new proposed rule. While at the IASWCD Annual Conference we learned that this had passed and was headed to the Governor & Attorney Generals desk for their signatures.

Crop Production Workshop – Jackson Co. Extension and SWCD sent a sponsorship letter for this program. There was no one in support of sponsoring this.

Agency & Committee Reports

Tripton Park Update – Work is continuing.

Share Some Space Update – The Pollinator committee is working with Muscatatuck Co. Park on a water feature and pollinator planting at the entrance as a finale project. The committee is looking into options for funding resources as this will be quite a large project.

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

Old Business

Annual Meeting – Conservation Farmer of the Year Award –

From various names submitted by board members, Andy and Jenny gathered information on deserving candidates for the boards review. After reviewing Matt Branham made a motion to nominate Charles Beesley, Jr and a second was made by Tom Schneider. All were in favor. The staff will contact Charles to notify him of his selection and to get information for the Annual Report.

- Friend of Conservation –

Brad Ponsler recommended Bob Ertel for this year's award. Bob is volunteering his time to lead the Tripton Park Committee. A motion was made by Dan Megel and a second by Tom Schneider. The staff will contact Bob to notify him of his selection and to get information for the Annual Report.

- Assignments –

Kelly will be putting together the program for the Annual Meeting. The welcome will be from Brad Ponsler, the Invocation will be given by Don Biehle, Dan Megel will present the Friend of Conservation, Matt Branham will present the Conservationist of the Year, Jerry St. John will run the election and Tom Schneider will do the Closing.

IASWCD Conference Highlights – Andy spoke about how interesting the speaker was about Climate Change and how our temperature has increased over the last 50 years and what the projected raise will be. Dan spoke about how impressive the speaker was about Invasive Species and suggested we check to see if she would speak at an Annual Meeting sometime. He also recommended that they have the State Conservationist speak at the conference that was something he missed this year.

New Business

Group Photo – Andy took a photo of the Supervisors and Associate Supervisors.

Training Video-Sexual Harassment - A letter was sent to districts from ISDA recommending that each district view this video that must be presented by an ISDA employee. Andy spoke with our County HR person and she will be sending out a video from our county for our review.

District Showcase – Andy suggested that the district submit the Tripton Park project for a District Showcase in 2019. The board agreed.

Shirts – A board member requested that the district purchase one new shirt with the district logo so that they would have a total of 2 when attending conferences and other events. Kelly showed the board the options and they chose Deep Blue. Kelly will get these ordered.

Laptop – With the purchase of new accounting software it was discovered that our current laptop will not support this program. Dan Megel made a motion to purchase a new laptop for the district with a second from Tom Schneider, all were in favor.

District Policy

No new policy

Strategic Plan

Tillage Transect Results – Andy presented the board a graph and data showing the results of no-till in Jennings Co since 1990. The results will be filed in our records.

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 with at 7:40 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member