

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
January 24, 2023  
Board Minutes

Prior to the meetings start, Brad asked us to keep the family of Billy Bloemer in our thoughts and prayers.

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the USDA Conference room. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:33 a.m.

**Board Members**

Brad Ponsler  
Tom Schneider  
Matt Branham

**Staff**

Kelly Kent  
Becca McClellan  
Andy Ertel

**Associate Board Members**

Jimmi Berkey  
Kameron Garlitch

**Partners**

Jenny Vogel - NRCS

**Reading of the Minute**

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the November 2022 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

**Financial Report**

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the financial report as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

**Correspondence**

**Regional Soil Health Workshop** – The board voted not to sponsor this Washington Co. event since we do not have any of our county members attending.

**IDEA Membership** – Matt made a motion to pay the \$25 each for membership dues for Kelly & Becca, with a second from Tom Schneider. All in favor.

**4-H Sponsor** – Brad read the letter received from Jennings Co. 4-H requesting sponsorship. Kelly reminded the board that we cannot sponsor from our office, however the Community Foundation Pass Through account is what we use to support Jennings Co 4-H. Tom Schneider made a motion to sponsor \$300 with a second from Matt Branham, all were in favor. Kelly submitted the form to the Community Foundation after the meeting.

**Ongoing/Old Business**

**319 Grant** – Becca reported that we have officially began working on the 319 grant. The 2 employees have been hired and working on the grant steering committee and there will be a meeting on February 7th. Andy will be putting together a powerpoint to be shown at the steering committee meeting and at the Annual Meeting to educate the landowners and operators that will qualify within the grant.

**IASWCD Annual Conference Update** –Matt, Brad, Becca & Kelly attend the conference in Indianapolis a few weeks ago. They reported the conference was nice and well attended. The resolution that Jennings Co. submitted was not passed but did stir questions and interest so with some more details and questions answered it may be something that we would submit again in the future. Kelly reported that the district received a “scholarship” for Matt Branham to attend. The scholarship covers the registration fee and 1 night’s hotel.

**Landfill Update** – Becca reported that the county attorney has confirmed a company has filed for issuance of a tax deed on the landfill, so the district is just waiting to see what takes place with this. The next IDEM meeting is sometime in February and Becca will get more details then.

### **New Business**

**Scott Co Log Jam** – The district was contacted by the Scott Co Drainage Board who is seeking a partnership with Jennings Co to apply for a grant to remove a log jam in the Muscatatuck between Scott and Jennings Counties. At this time it is unclear if the landowner and/or operators even know about this. Scott Co Drainage board is seeking funds to assist with writing the grant along with cash & in-kind match. There are many details missing from this request and Becca is tasked with sorting out those questions. She will report back after having some time to get the details.

**CISMA Meeting** – Becca attended a meeting at MNWR with Dawn Slack and Donna Stanley. Jackson Co currently has a CISMA group but is struggling to keep the volunteers interested and active. They asked if Jennings Co would be interested in creating our own group for programs, weed wrangles etc. Becca asked questions and brought this information to this board. After some discussion the board decided we didn't necessarily need a CISMA but that we could host other programs related to educating the public more about invasive species. One idea was to have live invasive plants at the fair in the Conservation Building for people to see and learn what to look for. Dawn Slack said she would be willing to come to the fair one evening and speak to the fair goers about invasives. The group has submitted a grant request including 10 counties and could add Jennings in a revision if we decided to start a group here. Becca is going to follow up and report back, at this time no action will be taken.

**Annual Report**– Kelly submitted a legal notice request last week to the North Vernon Plain Dealer but has not heard back from them. Discussion about how to advertise our Annual report was discussed and the board decided that putting the required information on our website and making it available at our Annual Meeting would be sufficient. Kelly is going to check with ISDA about the legal notice requirements.

**Truck Bed Lined** – Becca had concerns about the district truck bed, with so many scratches thinking it might need to have a bed liner. Since it is an aluminum bed rust will not be an issue. Quotes were shared and after some discussion it was decided to take no action at this time.

### **CWI Training Reimbursement**

Kelly reported that she had submitted the 3 registrations for the IASWCD Conf for training funds reimbursement and we did receive \$1k for this.

### **Agency & Committee Reports**

Jenny Vogel – NRCS DC

Written Report

Becca McClellan – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

**District Policy**

Nothing New

**Strategic Plan**

**Claims**

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Branham with a second by Tom Schneider at 7:46 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

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Chairman

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Vice-Chairman

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Member

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Member

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Member