

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
February 23, 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
Tom Schneider
Bob Steiner

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

ISDA

Kevin Baird

Reading of the Minutes

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the January 2016 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Financial Report

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

Correspondence

- Jennings Co. Chamber of Commerce Dues \$100 – Motion by Matt Branham to pay the dues with a second from Tom Schneider. All in favor.
- HHH RC&D Dues \$250 – Motion by Tom Schneider to pay the dues with a second from Matt Branham. All in favor.
- Jennings Co. 4-H Extension \$200 – Motion by Matt Branham to continue with a second from Tom Schneider. All in favor.
- Rural-Urban Dinner Sponsor – Motion by Matt Branham to sponsor the Rural-Urban Dinner as the \$200 4-H Sponsor with a second from Tom Schneider. All in favor.

Agency & Committee Reports

Kevin Baird – ISDA

Kevin reported to the board the following information

- The Lt. Governor is stepping down to pursue other interest. They are waiting on a replacement to be named.

- [Indiana poultry control area released](#)

The 6.2 mile control area associated with the highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) incident in Dubois County, Indiana has been lifted by the Indiana State Veterinarian.

Jenny Vogel – NRCS
Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD
Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD
Written Report

Old Business

Annual Meeting

Tara Wessler has confirmed the use of the ISDA portable sound system and she will be bringing that to the Annual Meeting for our use. Set-up will be either March 11 or March 14 depending on when the building is available. Final arrangements for the catering, awards and programs is being completed. The program will have the district's year in review, agency updates from Lacie Deputy, FSA and Jenny Vogel, NRCS.

NACD Conference Attendee Report

Dan Megel attended this and will report at our next board meeting.

Coulters

The No-Till drill coulters have been ordered at Dean Ford Equipment and we are awaiting their arrival. Once received Andy and Matt will replace the old with the new. Andy will check on the order.

Shop Meetings

After some additional discussions as to the need to continue with our shop meetings of the past, it was decided that this year we would not be hosting the shop meetings. Instead the district will focus their attention on a Drill meeting which will target on the non-traditional farmer and those who are in the CRP program that are adding forbs to the mixture to increase their Pollinator Habitat. This focuses more on our current project and will direct needed information to those less served in this area. The Drill meeting will be held at SEPAC on Thursday, March 31 @ 6pm. The meal will be provided by Grateful Grubb. Letters will be sent out to those who have already signed up for the program and other advertisement as the office staff sees fit. It was recommended by the board to have handouts with the seed rate chart, flow chart with set-up instructions, checking with Don @ SEPAC to see if he has an area we can see the drill in action and see if Nate Yazel could come and talk about the drill also. A representative from Jacobi's will be on hand to show set-up and answer questions about the drill.

New Business

Copier

The district was one of three county offices approved for their full funding on the new county bond. The district was funded for up to \$5500 for a new all-in-one machine. Due to the district working in a Federal Building and operating on federal equipment we are required to purchase through RIICOH under a federal government contract. The district had obtained a quote from Jerry Moore with RICOH for an MP C4503 @ a cost of \$4965. The service agreement will be \$.0055 per black & white and \$.04 per color impression. Jerry St. John made a motion to purchase this machine with a second from Matt Branham. Kelly will confirm the details with Mr. Moore and start the purchasing process. Jerry asked about the value of our current copier. Kelly had checked on this and RICOH does not do trade-ins and the sales rep advised the machine was probably worth \$500-\$1000 and we would need to dispose of it on our own. Kelly informed the board that the Veterans office was possibly needing a new copier and the board decided they would like to see if the Veterans is still in need and if so we would donate the copier to their office and let the County Council and Commissioners know that this would be done. Andy will check with Mike Eastman to see if they would like to have the districts current copier and report back to the board. Kelly will get with RICOH and get the new copier ordered.

Board Meeting in March?

Due to the many meetings the district is involved with in March there will not be a regular board meeting unless there is pressing business to attend to. The district will hold its Annual Meeting on March 15, a region meeting on March 17, Rural-Urban Dinner on March 29 and the Drill Meeting on March 31.

Plant Sale Update

Kelly reported that the districts plant sale is going well.

Pollinator Pathway Update

The Jennings County Commissioners have approved the Pollinator Pathway to go ahead. The district has applied for 7 grants and at this time 1 grant source has completed their application process and we were not funded. Andy, Dan and Kelly explained to the board that we have almost a \$10k project planned but funding is needed. Dan pointed out that the walkway cost of \$1800 was being donated by O'Mara Paving and asked the board to fund the geo-textile fabric so that we can continue the work on the project. No action was taken. Based on our plan we feel that this is the Cadillac plan and we may have to scale it back to the Chevy plan unless we can get some funding. Jerry St. John suggested we check with the Community Foundation and the Indiana Soybean Council to see if they have any funding options we would qualify for.

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 Tom Schneider with a second by Jerry St. John at 8:30 pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member