

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
February 26, 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 6:30 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 January 2019 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

**Financial Report**

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the January 23 – February 26, 2019 financial reports as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

**Correspondence**

MOU – The MOU agreement with USDA NRCS, USDA FSA, ISSCB, ISDA, Purdue Extension and the Jennings County SWCD was reviewed and signed by Brad Ponsler as the authorized signer.

4-H Request – Jerry St. John made a motion to support the 4-H program with a \$200 donation from the Community Foundation Pass Through Account with a second from Tom Schneider.

HHH RC&D – Dues of \$500 was tabled until the March meeting.

**Agency & Committee Reports**

Tripton Park Update – Work is continuing, and the Ribbon Cutting will be Saturday, August 3, 2019.

Jenny Vogel – NRCS  
Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD  
Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD  
Written Report

### **Old Business**

**Annual Meeting** – Kelly asked the supervisors, associate supervisors and staff to arrive no later than 5:30 p.m. A sample program was passed around to view for any corrections and additions. None were made.

**NACD Conference Highlights** – Jerry St. John reported that no matter where you go to these conferences that you get to interact with landowners from around the U.S. that have similar problems to address as you. He and Dan attended the Solar Panel breakout session and learned that they are trying to come up with long term plans on how to utilize solar power panels but find additional uses for the ground underneath such as sheep grazing, specialty crop plantings, etc.

Dan attended a soil health breakout in which they are looking for a Soil Health Champion for the southern part of Indiana to utilize cover crops and maintain records showing those benefits. He brought back 2 farms case studies and handed them out for the supervisors to review. One of the farmers that Dan met was willing to come to us and talk to farmers in Jennings County directly to educate them on the overall benefits of cover crops.

Dan also shared a program called Seed a Legacy and Andy will have the information available on this at the office.

### **New Business**

**Sexual harassment training video** – Andy sent out the link to a video that was provided by our County HR to all the supervisors and asked them to watch it. A sign off sheet was passed around to sign acknowledging that each one viewed the video.

**Shirts** – Kelly will pick up the new shirts on Thursday and get them to everyone Friday or Monday.

**Quail & Pheasants Forever** – The local chapter will be hosting their banquet on Friday, April 26 at the Pines Evergreen Room in Seymour.

### **District Policy**

No new policy

**Strategic Plan** - The items listed below are target areas that we will be discussing at the March board meeting to determine what direction and need the district will be focused on later this year and into the future.

Soil Health/Cover Crop  
Invasive Species  
Share Some Space  
Impaired Waterways

**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:

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member