

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
February 28, 2023
Board Minutes

Prior to the meetings start, Brad asked us to keep the families of Raymond Rascoe, Mark McClellan and Jeff Inman 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
Dan Megel
Kevin Morin

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 January 2023 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Financial Report

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

Correspondence

None

Ongoing/Old Business

GGIS Update – This has been renewed for another 5 years with \$2.6 million allocated to the project.

Scott Co Log Jam – Andy has spoke with the Jennings Co. landowner where this logjam is affecting, the land operator and Scott Co Drainage board member. The LARE grant was not funded this year, but Andy and Becca have looked at the site and feel there is a need to remove it. There is some discussion about what amount of funds may be needed to fix this issue. The board voted to table until some additional info can be received from IDNR about the LARE program.

319 Grant – The first landowner meeting was held at the Jennings Co Public Library on Feb. 7 with around 25 in attendance. Information about the program was shared and another meeting was set for Mar 15 @ 1pm at the library.

Nitrogen Study – Matt Branham reported to the board due to a lack of being able to take some samples, IU has extended the study for 1 additional growing season.

SICIM – Becca reported that after speaking with Dawn Slack again if they amended the grant, they would want Jennings Co to promote, and host weed wrangles and other educational programs. Otherwise, they would welcome any promotion, education, and assistance that Jennings Co could provide. After much discussion, it was decided that the district will work on promoting their programs and offer more educational opportunities at the county fair and potentially a field day.

New Business

Tripton Park Burn – Becca reported that last week a burn was completed at Tripton Park on the pollinator areas to help control weeds. She passed picture around.

Coffee Creek Conservation Club – The district received a \$500 donation from Roy Green and the CC Conservation Club last week to continue supporting the Pollinator and Butterfly project. A thank you letter was sent to the group for their generous support. Kelly will check with Jefferson Co SWCD to see if we can purchase plants from their sale at cost. After the meeting Kelly spoke to them and they are willing to let us purchase at cost.

Annual Meeting – Final Details – Kelly reported that we are behind on ticket sales. The location, caterer, decorations, and program are set.

Other New Business

Becca advised the board that she has contacted Tina Ellis, our county council liaison to invite her to come out to the district and learn more about what we do.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS DC
Written Report

Kelly Kent - SWCD
Written Report

Becca McClellan – 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 8:00 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member