

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
March 25, 2014
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 7:05 PM.

Supervisors

Matt Branham
Brad Ponsler
Dan Megel

Staff

Bob Steiner

Contracted Technician

Denise Dailey

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minutes

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the January, 2014 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel, motion carried.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the January 29 to March 25, 2014 financial reports as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham, motion carried.

Correspondence

The Jennings County 4-H Council requested that the SWCD sponsor 4-H project awards for the 2014 fair. On a motion by Dan Megel and second by Matt Branham, it was decided to sponsor 4-H awards at the same level as in 2013, which was \$200.00

A request was received to pay dues for 2014 to Historic Hoosier Hills Resource Conservation and Development council in the amount of \$250.00. On a motion by Dan Megel and a second by Matt Branham, it was voted to pay the dues.

Agency & Committee Reports

Essential Services

Nothing to report.

HHH RC&D

Bob attended the last meeting. HHH is planning their Annual Meeting for March 27th.

Rule 5 Consultant – Denise Dailey

Denise Dailey mentioned that construction activity will be picking up next week since there are some projects scheduled to begin at Muscatatuck Urban Training Center.

Staff Reports

Bob Steiner gave a brief report on his activities and submitted a written report

Jenny Vogel discussed the status of the 2014 Farm bill, mentioning that all USDA programs are on hold until final rules are published.

Kelly Kent submitted a written report

Old Business

Strawblower

Kelly checked with Mike Clancey on the status of payment for the strawblower rental. Mike owes the district \$2070 for rentals from August of 2012 to December of 2013. Mike stated at this time he is unable to pay that amount but promised to make sure and get caught up. Kelly proposed to Mike that he could get credit for assisting the SWCD with his fork lift for loading geo-textile rolls. He said that he does not want to be paid for doing that work since he thinks it is the neighborly thing to do. Brad Ponsler will get with the staff and discuss other alternatives with Mike.

NACD National Conference

Dan Megel attended the NACD National Conference in Los Angeles. He mentioned that it was a great opportunity to meet with conservationists from around the country. There was lots of discussion regarding the 2014 Farm Bill and, being in the west, a lot of concerns regarding public lands.

New Business

Associate Supervisor Mileage Reimbursement

On a motion by Dan Megel, seconded by Matt Branham, it was voted to pay mileage to associate supervisors.

Annual Meeting Recap

The consensus was that the annual meeting was well planned and there were several comments from attendees that were favorable.

Shop Meeting Recap

The recently completed shop meetings were discussed. About 30 people attended the meetings. Some discussion was held regarding possibly having only one meeting. It was decided that the present arrangement works best for the most people.

Conservation Building at the Fairgrounds

It was decided to meet at the building on April 5th at 8 AM to work on removal of the animal cages. Bob also discussed the need to get an aquarium for the turtles and on a motion by Matt Branham and second by Dan Megel, it was approved to pay up to \$500 for an aquarium tank.

Antique Tractor Display

The display was discussed. Matt has some ideas for displaying tractors with planting equipment. Ideas for a sun screen for the tent were discussed. On a motion by Matt Branham, seconded by Dan Megel, it was decided to purchase 7' X 30' side shade netting at a cost of \$98.00 plus bungee cords and shipping. Discussion was also held on getting some larger signs to use at the entrance to the display as well as signs for each tractor regarding climbing on tractors.

County Bond Funds

The Jennings County Council received the bond for capital improvements. The district was awarded some of their funding for a building at the district office to house the rental equipment owned by the district. Matt has received quotes for three sided pipe buildings. The 12'x24' building was \$4500, and a 24'x24' building was \$6500. Matt will check on some other possible building sizes and bring back information next month.

Funds are also available for purchase of a new Brillion Seeder. Bob has gotten a bid from Jacobi Sales which would allow \$5,000.00 trade-in for the old seeder toward a purchase of a new one which is priced at \$15,000.00. The bond funds would allow \$6,000.00 toward the purchase. The board instructed Bob to get another bid and Dan Megel made a motion to buy from the low bidder, seconded by Matt Branham, motion carried.

Bond funds will also be available in the amount of \$1500.00 for computer purchase when Bob and Kelly's computers go out of warranty in December and January.

Conservation Plans

Bob signed plans as needed.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Dan Megel, seconded by Matt Branham at 9:05 PM.

Minutes recorded by Bob Steiner, Executive Director.