

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
March 22, 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 7:02pm.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Matt Branham
Tom Schneider
Bob Steiner
Rob McGriff

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

ISDA

Tara Wesseler

Those not present: Dan Megel, Jerry St. John, Don Biehle, Denise Dailey

Reading of the Minutes

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

Financial Report

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

Correspondence

- IDEA Dues - \$25 per staff memberships are due. Matt Branham made a motion to pay the dues with a second from Tom Schneider. All approved.
- Rural/Urban Dinner Attendees – The district receives 2 tickets for staff or supervisors to attend this meeting on March 29th. Kelly will be attending and Brad will let Kelly know if he plans to attend.
- St. Mary’s Request – Karla Gasper with St. Mary’s School contacted Kelly and asked if the district would sponsor a tree to be planted at the school for the 2016 Earth Day program. After much discussion Matt Branham made a motion to approve the purchase of a tree up to \$50 with a second from Tom Schneider. All approved. Rob McGriff suggested we look at getting a Dogwood or Redbud.
- Thank You was received from Denise Dailey for honoring her at the recent Annual Meeting
- SWCD Food Policy – ISDA sent out a sample policy that the board should adopt. After some discussion Matt Branham made a motion to adopt this policy with a second from Tom Schneider. All approved.

- Scott Ham – Scott was the speaker for our Annual Meeting this year and the board would like to make a good faith speaking fee to him. Tom Schneider made a motion to pay Scott \$350 for his services with a second from Matt Branham. All approved.

Old Business

Annual Meeting Assessment

The board felt like the Annual Meeting went well again this year. We heard many compliments on Scott Ham.

Drill Workshop

Plans are set for the upcoming Drill Meeting on March 31 @ SEPAC. The meeting will begin at 6pm and end by 8pm. Mark Bateman and Tony Eppley will be there from Jacobi Equipment to speak about setting up the No-Till Drill properly when using forbs.

New Business

New Drill Parts

While replacing the coulters on the No-Till Drill more parts were needed to get it ready for rental this year. Parts needed were hitch, bearing, disc openers & seed tubes the approximate cost will be \$1700. Matt Branham made a motion to approve the purchase of these parts with a second from Tom Schneider. All approved.

Committee Pollinator Project

- Bob updated the board as to where the project is currently at
 - Rock has been delivered for the Pathway
 - County is ready to cut out the path once it is dry
 - O'mara's is ready to pave when the pathway is cut out and rock in place
 - Staff is meeting with Fredrick Wilder, Scout on Wednesday to discuss the building of the pergola for his Eagle Scout Project.
 - It was discussed how important it is to keep things on track with the project. The board discussed setting an amount, loaning the project different amounts, future donations and future grants. Matt made a motion to set aside \$3000 for this project from the SWCD funds, a second by Tom Schneider with all in favor.
 - Donations for the project have been received from Jennings Co. Fair Board \$1000; Coffee Creek Conservation Club \$500.
 - Andy attended the Farm Bureau Annual Meeting and presented a slide show on Pollinators. The Farm Bureau group will be hosting a regular monthly meeting on April 7th and Brad stated they may be looking at some financial assistance at that time.

Plant Sale

Kelly reported the plant sale was much better than anticipated. A total of 2622 plants was sold with a profit of \$2094. In addition to make the purchase of flats correct we will have an additional 327 plants that can be sold when the pre-ordered plants are picked up.

Fabric Sale

Matt suggested we offer pre-cut geo-textile fabric for those who wish to purchase at the plant sale pick up. Everyone thought this would be a good idea. It was suggested by Tom Schneider that we work a group, 4-H or FFA, to assist us with this part of the plant pick-up. Pricing will be set by the staff.

CWI Grant

The deadline to apply for the 2017 CWI Grant is September 15, 2016. Some of the suggestions made would be to look at what our county needs that goes along with our Business Plan. Items that may be considered are Invasive Plants and Pollinators. More details will be coming at a later date.

Plat Book

Kelly advised the board that we are starting to hear from Plat Book publishing companies that are interested in publishing our next plat book. At this time the district still has approximately 130 of the 2013 Plat Books left. Discussion about the accessibility of phone apps and county GIS questions the need to continue this program. At this time the board decided to wait on publishing a new book until more of the 2013 books are sold. Kelly will report to the board when we are getting low on these books and they will revisit this matter.

Meeting Times

Andy asked the board to consider moving our meeting times up to 6pm. After some discussion it was decided to follow the time change. So in the Fall we begin our meetings at 6pm and in the Spring we will begin our meetings at 7pm. (Same as daylight savings time)

Rob McGriff-District Forester Updates

Rob shared that this year the Indiana Forestry and Woodlands Conference would be held in Columbus, IN with more details to follow. He believes it will be November 4th & 5th.

Tara Wesseler – ISDA Updates

Tara shared that ISDA is working with a group on Water Quality Training Project and they will be receiving \$100k in funding to work with private woodland owners on approved practices at a 75% cost share. If we have anyone that may not qualify for other programs she is interested in hearing from us in hopes of getting this money utilized in these areas.

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