

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
March 23, 2017  
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 6:34pm.

**Board Members**

Matt Branham  
Brad Ponsler  
Tom Schneider  
Bob Steiner  
Jerry St. John  
Dan Megel

**Staff**

Andy Ertel  
Kelly Kent

**NRCS**

Jenny Vogel

**Reading of the Minute**

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the February 2017 & Annual Meeting 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**

- Bulk Permit Fee – this is an annual fee charged by USPS for our discounted postage on newsletter mailings. Kelly informed the board after checking on the value of this it is still a valuable savings for the district. Dan Megel made a motion to pay this annual fee with a second from Tom Schneider.
- A request from DNR South Region Landscape Biologist, Erin Basiger was received by Jenny and she forwarded to Andy. Andy advised the board that at first it was described as just a letter of support but after further review it appears to be wanting a financial and technical commitment by the district. After some discussion, the board asked Andy to find out more information and bring back to the next meeting.

**Agency & Committee Reports**

Jenny Vogel – NRCS  
Written Report  
Andy Ertel – SWCD  
Written Report

Andy advised the board that he was invited to do a presentation on our pollinator project at the MNWR Conservation Happenings in So. Indiana and that those present were quite impressed at what our volunteer committee and staff had completed in such a short time frame.

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

## **Old Business**

### **Annual Meeting**

- The board commented that several people had good things to say about the Annual Meeting.
- In lieu of a speaking fee Dr. John Scott Foster ask that the board send any payment to Wesselman Nature Society. A motion was made by Tom Schneider to send \$350 with a second from Dan Megel.

## **New Business**

### **Plant Sale Update**

Kelly advised the board that this year's sale was successful with 2113 plants sold and a profit of \$2192.70 for the Pollinator Committee.

### **Name of Future Supervisors**

Andy had asked the board to come up with names of potential future supervisors. Names were given and Kelly will compile a list to work from and share with the board at the next meeting.

### **Election of Officers**

Dan Megel nominated Brad Ponsler for chairman with a second from Matt Branham. With no other nominations Brad was unanimously elected by his peers.

Jerry St. John nominated Dan Megel for chairman with a second from Tom Schneider. With no other nominations Dan was unanimously elected by his peers.

Jerry St. John made a motion for Kelly Kent to continue as Fiscal Officer with a second from Dan Megel. All in favor.

### **Policy Review**

With so many policies required by the SBOA Kelly has set up a binder with all the policies and a checklist as to when they were approved by the district board. Instead of a few here and there the board will now review and update these policies at the first meeting following the Annual Meeting.

The following policies were reviewed and adopted at tonight's meeting:

- Food Expenditure
- Internal Control
- Materiality Threshold
- Mileage Approval
- Banking Approval

Capital Assets Threshold  
MOU's  
MOA's  
Annual Meeting  
Credit Card  
Cooperative Working Agreements  
Board Officers  
Fiscal Offer  
Office Cash/Change Policy  
Endowment Fund Policy

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept all of the policies listed above with a second from Dan Megel. All in favor.

**National News**

Dan advised the board that he had recently seen some news coverage about the federal government placing the Rusty Patch Bumblebee on the endangered species list and that in the past 17 years they have not found 1 bee in the Smoky Mountains where it was once abundant. So he wanted the board and staff to know that we are working on improving pollinators as an entire nation.

**HHH RC&D**

Bob advised the board that he was asked to continue with the HHH RC&D board for another 3 year term.

**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 7:57 pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

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Chairman

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member