

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
March 27, 2018  
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 pm.

**Board Members**

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

**Staff**

Andy Ertel  
Kelly Kent

**NRCS**

Jenny Vogel

**Reading of the Minute**

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the January 2018 minutes as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

**Financial Report**

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the February 28, 2018 financial reports as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

**Correspondence**

**NFWF Foundation**

Andy advised the board about the grant that was applied for. We are waiting to hear back currently.

**IASWCD Dues** Matt Branham made a motion to pay the \$2000 dues with a second by Jerry St. John.

**HHH Annual Meeting**

The Annual Meeting will be held at Ertel Winery on April 26 at 11:15am – 1pm and the cost is \$20 if any board member would like to attend.

**Agency & Committee Reports**

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report & explained that there are 3 applicants for CSP, the WRP deadline for application is August 17<sup>th</sup> for FY2019. American Land Trust has sent out nonoperating landowners survey.

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

## Written Report

### **Tripton Park**

Andy reported that the city council approved \$155,300 for planning and design of the amenities. A business has donated the fountain for the pond. The entire park is estimated to cost \$2.8 million.

### **Old Business**

#### **Annual Meeting**

Brad asked the board for any comments about the recent meeting. All enjoyed the form and commented on how they really like the displays when entering in the building showing the work the district was doing in Jennings Co.

#### **Rural Urban Dinner**

Matt Branham attended and said the evening was nice and that the speaker did a good job. He also commented on the performance by the JCMS Show Choir.

#### **Plant Sale**

Kelly reported that this years' sale was larger than 2017 at 2563 plants. This year's sale was more challenging with plant inventory changing and dealing with a new person at the supplier. But all customers should be taken care of and plants will be delivered on May 2.

**Nitrogen Tester** – At the February meeting the board agreed to purchase the tester but the price was incorrect. The price is \$40 instead of \$20. Jerry St. John made a motion to purchase the tester at \$40 with a second from Tom Schneider.

#### **Fair Display**

Tom suggested that we start coming up with a plan for the fair display.

### **New Business**

#### **Election of Officers**

Dan Megel made a motion to re-elect Brad Ponsler as Chairman with a second from Jerry St. John. All were in favor. Matt Branham made a motion to re-elect Dan Megel as Vice-Chairman with a second from Tom Schneider. All were in favor. Dan Megel made a motion for Kelly Kent to be the Fiscal Officer with a second from Jerry St. John. All were in favor.

#### **Bank of Record**

PNC will continue to be the districts bank of record with a motion from Dan Megel and second from Tom Schneider.

**NRCS Civil Rights Training**

Jenny Vogel completed this with the board and they signed a completion form.

**County Health Insurance Plan for Supervisors** – Jerry contacted David Lane about the County Commissioners approving the option for the SWCD Supervisors to opt in on the county health plan like other elected county officials. Mr. Lane said he did not have a problem with it but to ask Kay Vance, County Auditor. Jerry did this and she was okay with it if the Commissioners approved it. Jerry and Tom then spoke to Matt Sporleder and he stated, “absolutely not because the supervisors weren’t really elected”. Andy will take the Indiana Code to the commissioners to show them that according to State Law the district supervisors are elected.

**District Policy**

Kelly advised the board of the district policies and any updates for 2018. Then each board member signed the approved policies.

**Strategic Plan**

Andy passed out a draft plan with objectives and asked the board to consider other items they would like to see added to our 5-year plan. In looking at the plan a few adjustments were made, and the final draft will be ready for the April meeting.

**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 8:11 pm.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

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Chairman

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member