

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

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

Staff

Kelly Kent
Becca McClellan
Andy Ertel

Associate Board Members

Jimmi Berkey

Partners

Jenny Vogel - NRCS

Reading of the Minute

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the February 2023 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Financial Report

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

Correspondence

None

Ongoing/Old Business

Sand Creek & Tripton Park Bridges – Andy reported that he attended a meeting with City Council, Commissioner Sporleder, City Clerk, Bob Ertel, Kathy McKalip and others about the possibility of the historic iron bridge that sits over Sand Creek at County Road 740 S being replaced and moved to the new location over the Muscatatuck connecting Calli Nature Preserve and Tripton Park. The State of Indiana will match 80% of the estimated cost and asked that the City of North Vernon and Jennings County commit to \$1 million each. This will be discussed by the city and county.

Vernon Watershed Project – Becca reported that a second meeting was held with much fewer in attendance, but we would not be discouraged. A windshield survey will be conducted Wednesday and Thursday of this week to determine our critical areas. The next meeting is April 27 @ 6:30 a.m.

Pollinator Pathway Overhaul – Kelly reported that the district had received a \$500 donation from the Coffee Creek Conservation Club, and they ask that it be put towards protecting butterflies and their habitat. Kelly ordered 10 flats from the Jefferson Co Pollinator Committee sale. These plants will arrive by May 5. The pathway needs to be sprayed to kill off weeds and some new mulching completed. Brad asked if we wanted to pick some dates to host a workday for this. April 6, 10, and 21 was selected as potential dates with work to begin at 8am. Kelly will send out an email to the Pollinator Committee and see if any of them would like to assist.

New Business

Review/Discussion of Annual Meeting – Jimmi commented that she enjoyed the Annual Meeting, along with the rest of the board. Kelly mentioned that we may want to revamp our Annual Meeting. Based on the lack of attendees and the cost of the meal, decorations, etc. Kelly asked the board to think about other ways to host the Annual Meeting and we would discuss at a future meeting.

Election of Officers – Matt nominated Brad Ponsler as the Chairman, Dan Megel as the Vice-Chairman and Kelly Kent as the Treasurer. Tom Schneider seconded Matt’s motion and then nominations were closed. All were in favor.

Civil Rights, EEO Poster Review & Discussion – Jenny provided each person in attendance with a packet of info and reviewed.

Review District Policies – Kelly had updated the policies for review. The only change was the federal mileage rate. The board reviewed these policies and signed each of them.

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