

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
April 22, 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 7:00 PM.

Supervisors

Jerry St. John
Matt Branham
Brad Ponsler

Staff

Kelly Kent
Bob Steiner
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Associate Supervisors

Tom Schneider

Reading of the Minutes

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the March 2014 minutes as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

Financial Report

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the Mar. 25 – Apr. 22, 2014 financial report as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

Correspondence

HHH RC&D sent their Annual Report for anyone's review.

NACD Soil Health Forum & Conservation Tour – Indianapolis July 21 -22, Brad encouraged board members that might be interested in going to this to let the board know so that we can get registered for this event. NACD chose Indiana to host this due to Indiana's leadership in Soil Health and Cover Crops. Kelly has the registration form and hotel information.

Agency & Committee Reports

ISDA Report – Tara Henry-Wessler

Tara joined our meeting as our new District Support Specialist, she is based in Fayette Co. She offered to come in and do new supervisor training, help with budgets, provide leverage sheets, do presentations for councils, etc. Important dates to remember: August 26 @ Ft. Harrison, Chairman and Vice-Chairman Training. September 5 & 6 at Mitchell, IN, Leadership Institute – Board Development. December 12 & 13 at Lafayette, IN, Leadership Institute – Leadership in Change.

Staff Reports

Bob Steiner

Written report submitted.

Jenny Vogel

Written report submitted.

Kelly Kent

Written report submitted.

Old Business

Wildlife Building

Cages have been removed and disposed of. The new railing/fence has been purchased and needs to be picked up at Menards whenever a board member has a truck and time to go get it. Jerry received a quote from Wilson Concrete on replacing the current turtle/wetland tank. The quote amount was \$1300 for a 4'x8'x4' with epoxy coating. Bob suggested we only need a 2'x8'x4' tank with no epoxy, so Jerry is going to get with Wilson Concrete to requite. The old block tank will need to be removed by the SWCD board.

Tractor Display

The shade for the tent was ordered and received. There was some discussion on signs for the tractor display asking folks not to climb on tractors. Nothing was decided for sure at this time. Kelly reported there is a 3'x4' metal sign similar to our highway signs that could be put in a frame and placed at the front of the tractor display entrance for promotion of the district. Everyone was asked to think of ways to frame that sign for use.

The board would also like to have benches for those stopping in to look at the tractors. Kelly will get in contact with Brad Briggs and see if the FFA students would be willing to build these for the district with the SWCD board covering the material cost.

Brillion Seeder

The 2014 Brillion Seeder was ordered after last month's meeting from the low quote of Jacobi Sales & Service in Seymour. The second bid received by Bob from Miller Equipment was \$1200 higher. Bob placed the order with Jacobi and the expected delivery date is around May 1st.

New Business

ELI Well Water Initiative Program

Environmental Labs approached the district about doing a well water testing program. This program is designed to test nitrates and total coliform for a special rate. The district would need to purchase 40-50 kits and have a 1 day "special" where the well owner would pick up the bottle before noon and then return with their water in the bottle by 3 PM so that we could deliver the test kits to ELI for immediate testing. The board discussed whether this would be something that we could do based on such strict guidelines, after discussing it was decided that we would not be interested in doing this at this time.

Election of Officers

Jerry St. John nominated Brad Ponsler for Chairman and Dan Megel for Vice-Chairman. With no other nominations, Brad closed the nominations. Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the nomination with a second from Matt Branham. Jerry St. John made a motion for the board secretary to be Kelly with a second from Matt Branham.

Financial Update

Bob & Kelly worked on a current financial status report and provided a copy to each board member. Bob suggested that we come up with a plan to put some of our funding to use in some type of cost-share program. After some discussion, Jerry St. John made a motion to table this issue until all board members were present at the next meeting.

Other New Business

Tom Schneider would like to have a pond clinic sometime in August. The SWCD staff and board will be helping with this event. More details will be forthcoming.

Conservation Plans

Bob signed plans as needed.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Jerry St. John with a second by Matt Branham at 8:03 PM.

Minutes recorded by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant