

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
April 26, 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
Jerry St. John
Dan Megel

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

Those not present: Rob McGriff, Don Biehle, Denise Dailey

Reading of the Minutes

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the March 2016 board meeting minutes and the 2016 Annual Meeting minutes as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

Financial Report

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

Correspondence

- IASWCD Dues - \$2000. Dan Megel made a motion to pay the due with a second from Jerry St. John. All Approved.
- Scott Ham – After we paid Scott for his presentation at our Annual Meeting he sent an email with pictures from their last mission trip and said the money he received from speaking go towards the next mission trip he is taking students to Guatemala.
- WRP Support – NRCS is hosting a meeting of landowners in the WRP program in August and would like the four districts involved to make a financial contribution towards the building rental and meal cost. After some discussion Dan Megel made a motion to make a \$100 contribution to this event with a second from Jerry St. John.
- Website Annual Agreement – The cost for Wolf Creations to maintain the district website for another year is \$250. Tom Schneider made a motion to continue with this service with a second from Matt Branham. All Approved.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Jenny also informed the board that the CRP program is nearing its cap of 24 million acres for 2016 and will only have 23 million acres in 2017.

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

Old Business

Rural Urban Dinner

The event went well. Unfortunately with the closing of the Jennings Co. Chamber of Commerce the continuation of this event is unknown.

Drill Workshop

The workshop was a success with about 30 people in attendance. Board members that were present at the workshop felt that the classroom information session went well but would have liked a bit more hands on from the sales rep. However the staff noted that the folks that had questions were able to speak with these reps to answer their specific questions.

Copier

The new copier has been delivered and the staff will receive training on all its functions on Wednesday.

Update of Pathway

The Pollinator Committee will be unloading and sorting the 2900+ plants on Wednesday, May 4th around 10:30am until completed. Then on Thursday, May 5th they will be assisting the customers with picking up the plants from 4-6pm and again on Friday, May 6th from 8am-4pm. Finally on Saturday, May 7th at 9am they will be planting the Pollinator Pathway plants. Andy asked the board to stop by and meet our hard working volunteer Pollinator Committee members and maybe pitch-in and help for a while on any of these days. Andy asked the board to set aside some funding to provide water, pop and food for the volunteers on these 4 days. Tom Schneider made a motion to allocate \$400 for these 4 days with a second from Matt Branham. All approved.

Andy reported that we have received donations from the following organizations at this time - \$250 from Jennings Co. Extension Homemakers, \$1000 from Jennings Co. Fair Board, \$500 from Coffee Creek Conservation Club (this was in addition to the initial \$500 we used for seed) and \$2000 from Farm

Bureau Inc. & Farm Bureau Ins. Farm Bureau requested they be the sole sponsor of the wrought iron fence and that there be a sign stating that. This request will be honored.

Tree Purchased & Delivered

The redbud tree was purchased by the district for St. Mary's School. It has now been planted by Mrs. Inman's Kindergarten Class.

New Business

Election of Officers

Dan Megel made a motion that Brad Ponsler remain the Chairman with a second from Jerry St. John. With no other nominations the board members voted to approve the nomination. Matt Branham made a motion that Dan Megel remain the Vice-Chairman with a second from Tom Schneider. With no other nominations the board members voted to approve the nomination. Jerry St. John made a motion that Kelly Kent remain the Secretary/Treasurer with a second from Matt Branham. All approved.

District Showcase Awards

Andy asked the board if they felt it would be beneficial for the district to apply for the IASWCD District Showcase Award this year. There was an overwhelming response from the board to definitely apply by the August deadline showcasing our entire Pollinator Project Andy would also like to check on presenting our program at the National Convention this year.

Pollinator Field Day Ideas

- Andy would like some input from the board on ideas to host our field day and what type of subject matter would be beneficial. He passed out the ideas that the Pollinator Committee had come up with and asked the board members to rank them in order of importance. Andy will go back to the committee and ask them to do the same in order to provide as much information as possible.
- Food/Cost – There was some discussion about opportunities to get sponsors to off-set the cost, along with the district covering some of the meal cost. More discussion will take place on this at a later date.
- Children's Activities was mentioned to encourage their attendance – more ideas and a plan will be formulated.
- Start & Finish Times – Many ideas were discussed and once the program is determined the times will be set in the evening.

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