

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
April 18, 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. Dan Megel called the meeting to order at 6:29 pm.

Board Members

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

Staff

Andy Ertel
Kelly Kent

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minute

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the March 2017 minutes as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

Financial Report

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the financial report as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

Correspondence

- Wolf Creative Services – Matt made motion to pay the \$250 annual fee for website maintenance with a second from Tom Schneider.
- Letter to Landowner – Andy advised the board that we had sent a letter to a landowner who was awarded \$1050 to implement pollinators in with his CRP. He elected not to add the pollinators therefore we requested that he return the funds to the district. After discussion with the DSS it was decided that if the district can fund some landowners within the same scope as the original grant they should do so. Matt Branham made a motion to give the staff the authority to fund landowners that stays within the scope of the original grant with a second from Tom Schneider.
- Grazing for the future – Jefferson and Ripley Co are hosting a Grazing Conference at Clifty Inn on August 17 – 18, 2017. The featured speaker is Dr. Pol from Nat. Geo Wild. The cost for the 2 day conference is \$65 or you can attend just the dinner and speaker session for \$40. The registration opens to the public on May 1st. If anyone is needing more info please let Kelly know.
- IASWCD Dues – A bill from the state association for 2017 dues in the amount of \$2000 was received. Jerry made a motion to pay the dues with a second from Tom.

- \$10k Matching Funds – The contract for the State Matching Funds was received and Kelly signed and returned this to the state.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

Bob Steiner – HHH RC&D

Bob shared with the board his appreciation for Andy, Dan & Kelly attending the HHH Annual Meeting. 9 districts were honored and each received a plaque for their office. Bob has been speaking with Dan Wright on things he would like to see done in Vernon. Bob then talked with Terry Stephenson at HHH and they are planning to meet with Dan and see what HHH can do to assist with these projects.

Pollinator Committee Updates

- T-shirts – Andy ask the board if they would be willing to fund the cost of some t-shirts for the board and Pollinator Committee members to wear while supporting the pollinator project. Tom Schneider made a motion for the staff to have up to \$500 to purchase these shirts with a second from Matt Branham.
- Billboard – Jennings County Tourism paid for a road side billboard for 6 weeks so that the Pollinator Committee could promote the county and its pollinator project
- Spraying Sites – The 9 industrial sites have been sprayed
- Plant (May/June) – We will be planting Eco Park, Calli's, School properties.

Old Business

Rural Urban Dinner Assessment

- Matt, Tom, Brad & Bob attended this event. Matt mentioned that there doesn't seem to be anything drawing the Urban and Rural together. Matt and Tom both enjoyed the keynote speaker but stated that they still didn't see much connection of the two groups. Bob thought there was a good turn out and has some ideas for next year's if they do another. He welcomed comments.

New Business

Fair Display

The staff asked the board for ideas with our exhibit at the county fair. This year’s fair will be July 3 – 8, and our Pollinator display has been used for 2 years and may need updated.

Ideas were: Offer space to Friends of the Muscatatuck River group, have different bee keepers – associations, vendors etc. come different evenings to sell or promote their business, add information on the industrial pollinator program, and add a display similar to the one we did at the state conference.

Assist Council with development of Tripton Park

Andy was asked by the council if he could help facilitate some plans for the new park. The board gave their blessing and stated that Andy do only what he feels he has time to assist them with.

Policy Review

- Annual Meeting Policy – Signature
 - This policy was approved at the March meeting and just needed signatures.
- MOU – IASWCD/Purdue – This MOU was read and approved by the board.
- Square Policy – The district will now be accepting credit and debit cards for payment. A motion was made by Jerry St. John to charge 3.5% for this service to the cardholder with a second from Matt Branham. Kelly had a policy written up and this was read and approved by the board.

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 Matt Branham 7:33 pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member