

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
April 28, 2020
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held via ZOOM online meeting. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

Board Members

Dan Megel
Jerry St. John
Brad Ponsler
Bob Steiner

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

Partners

Kameron Garlitch – ISDA Resource Specialist
Robert Waller – Purdue Extension ANR
Tara Wesseler – ISDA District Support Specialist

Reading of the Minute

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the February 2020 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Financial Report

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

Correspondence

HHH RC&D Dues

Bob Steiner had emailed information about the HHH dues. Jerry St. John made a motion to pay the \$500 dues this year and to reassess the next year with a second from Dan Megel.

Old Business

Grassland for Gamebirds & Songbirds Grant

State reported that in 2019, there was 138 habitat projects on more than 1800 acres. The district will be using the drill at American Axle as part of our district match on the grant.

Conservation Building – The contractor has completed the project within the budget. Andy and Kelly have been working to place items back into the building, cleaning, cleaning and painting aquariums, hanging the new pictures and miscellaneous items. More lighting heads will be purchased and added to the track lighting to enhance the viewing.

New Business

New ISDA Resource Specialist

ISDA has hired Kameron Garlitch as the new Resource Specialist for our area. Contact info was shared with supervisors.

IU Study

Evan and Eliza, Indiana University Master students. Are in Dr. Deslatte and Dr. Burgins course "Planning for Climate Change and Resilient, Urban Communities". They reached out to Andy to complete a case study on the Share Some Space Pollinator Project. They will host a meeting via Zoom later in May.

District Showcase

Andy asked the board if they would like for us to submit an application for the District Showcase about the Tripton Park Project. The board members were in favor of Andy proceeding with the application.

Agency & Committee Reports

Reports from Andy, Kelly & Jenny were emailed out prior to the meeting.

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

Robert Waller – Extension

Robert explained to the board that Purdue has stopped all face-to-face meetings until the end of June. If there is a county fair no 4-H programs will be participating.

Kelly did update the board that there will be some type of 4-H program, we don't know what that will look like yet but should receive some guidance by the end of this week or next.

Tara Wesseler – ISDA

Tara reported that most districts are either working from home or alternating staff in the office during this time. She stated that we should let her know if ISDA can be of any help during this time.

CWI grants have opened for 2021 and they are allowing non SWCD's to apply as long as they partner with 1 or more SWCD's.

The \$10k matching grant should be coming to districts soon. Ours is pending deposit into our checking account as of today.

District Policy

No new policies.

Claims

Board members will be making arrangements to come into the office this week to sign the approved minutes and financial reports.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry St. John with a second by Dan Megel at 8:40 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member