

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
June 4, 2014 (Rescheduled from May 27)
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 6:00 PM.

Supervisors

Jerry St. John
Matt Branham
Brad Ponsler

Staff

Kelly Kent
Bob Steiner
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minutes

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

Financial Report

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the April 22 – May 27, 2014 financial report as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

Correspondence

IASWCD Annual Dues – The 2014 IASWCD Dues are \$2000. Jerry St. John made a motion to pay the annual dues, with a second from Matt Branham.

State Fair Delegates – The ISDA sent letters to those in District 4 for State Fair Board Elections requesting information about the SWCD and supervisors requesting a delegate and 2 alternates to vote in the fall election for the next four years fair board member. Brad Ponsler agreed to be the delegate and Kelly will send an email to Nathan and Dan to see if they would be willing to serve as alternates.

LI Board Development – The next Leadership Institute to will be held at French Lick on September 5-6, this program will be Board Development. If any board members are interested in going please let Kelly know.

Agency & Committee Reports

Staff Reports

Bob Steiner

Written report submitted.

Jenny Vogel

Written report submitted.

Kelly Kent

Written report submitted.

Old Business

NACD Soil Health Forum & Conservation Tour – Indianapolis July 21-22

This is an opportunity for supervisors to attend an NACD right here in Indiana. The board has agreed to pay for registration and hotel for those wanting to attend. The registration deadline is July 11th.

Wildlife Building

Over the past few work days held at the wildlife building the old turtle tank has been removed, over ½ of the ceiling scrubbed clean, new fencing installed, and new turtle tank purchased. There are some general supplies needed for the building. Jerry St. John made a motion to approve up to \$200 to purchase supplies, with a second from Matt Branham. Bob had a volunteer that was making a Plinko game and offered it to the district for use in the wildlife building at the fair, due to a lack of volunteers or staff availability the board opted not to use this. The board asked Kelly to research pens and/or screwdrivers for a giveaway at the fair then get the prices to them for approval. Allen Dunham has offered his masonry skills to build a turtle tank stand and install a new wetland display as long as the district will cover the material cost. He estimates that the cost will be no more than \$450. Jerry St. John made a motion to purchase materials based on the estimate, with a second from Matt Branham. If the cost would go over the motion would also give Bob Steiner the approval option. Mr. Dunham plans to install the new tank stand and wetland display on Saturday, June 14th.

Wildlife Workday

The next work day at the Wildlife Building will be on Friday, June 20th 9 AM – 3 PM. Then we will have hopefully our last cleanup day on Saturday, June 28th 8 AM until noon.

Fair Benches

The SWCD board requested that the Jennings County FFA construct 5 new benches for the SWCD to use at the Antique Ag display at the fair at a cost of \$70 per bench. Jerry St. John made a motion to pay the \$350 to Jennings County FFA with a second from Matt Branham. The board would like to have the benches labeled with SWCD so that they do not walk off at the fairgrounds. Kelly will check with Richard Vogel to see if he would be able to burn in the initials or if we could find someone to brand them.

Storage Building

Matt and Bob are working on quotes for a building to house our equipment in at the office. Louis Wilson gave permission for us to install the building but looking at the area that would be best to place the building(s) there is a locust tree there. Kelly will check with Louis to see if it would be okay to remove the tree. Bob said if Louis agreed to have it removed that Bob would cut it down and use for firewood.

Financial Update

This was tabled from the previous meeting. Bob asked the board to consider implementing a new cost-share program to utilize some of the funds that district currently has. After much discussion the board asked Bob and staff to come up with a cover crop cost-share program with a cap of \$20k. This will be discussed in further detail at the next board meeting.

Brillion Seeder

The new seeder has been received. Insurance has been transferred from the old one to the new one.

New Business

Tractor Display

Kelly has sign up sheet for setting up, tearing down and working the tractor booth at the fair. Kelly will also be mailing a letter out this week to tractor owners about setting up at the fair. Matt will do some checking to see what a cost would be to put a 3'x5' frame around the sign we would like to use at the entrance of the tractor display.

Budget 2015

Kelly advised the board that the 2015 budget request will be sent out soon and asked if there were any changes that they would like to see made. Jerry St. John suggested that we request 3% salary increase and keep the line item total the same. Kelly will go over the amounts and adjust any line items that need it. As soon as Kelly receives notification of the budget hearing that information will be sent to all supervisors.

Fair Fishing Booth

Bob requested on behalf of Beth Steiner who serves on the fair board that the SWCD board sponsor a half-day of the Fishing Booth at a cost of \$425. After some discussion Matt Branham made a motion to sponsor a half day with a second from Jerry St. John. With this sponsorship, the SWCD will receive publicity during the fair.

Fair Insurance

Each exhibitor at the Jennings County Fair is required to have proof of insurance. Kelly contacted the Farm Bureau Insurance Agent and received a copy with proof of insurance and forwarded to Beth Steiner for the fair board's records.

Pond Clinic

Tom Schneider, owner of Schneider Feed & Seed, along with the SWCD, will be hosting a pond clinic at Tom's home on Tuesday, August 26. Tom has lined up pond chemical representatives and asked that the district find someone that can speak about proper pest and predator control.

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 submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant