

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
June 30, 2015  
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 p.m.

**Supervisors**

Brad Ponsler  
Jerry St. John

Matt Branham  
Dan Megel

**Staff**

Kelly Kent  
Andy Ertel

**NRCS**  
Jenny Vogel

**Contracted Technician**

Denise Dailey

**Associate Supervisor**

Bob Steiner  
Rob McGriff

**Extension**

Josey Huffmeyer

**DSS**

Tara Wesseler

**Reading of the Minutes**

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the May 2015 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

**Financial Report**

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the April 29, 2015 – May 26, 2015 financial reports as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

**Correspondence**

**Leadership Institute**

Impacting Communities will be held at Fair Oaks Dairy on August 28 & 29, 2015, Communications will be held at Manchester University on November 17, 2015 and Leadership in Change will be held at Clifty Falls on December 4 & 5, 2015.

**Supervisor Summit**

This year's summit will be held at the Hendricks Co. Fairgrounds on August 25, 2015.

**Agency & Committee Reports**

**Staff Reports**

### **Andy Ertel**

Written report submitted.

### **Jenny Vogel**

Written report submitted. NRCS is continuing to postpone visits to farms with poultry during this bird flu outbreak in hopes of not spreading it further. Conservation Client Gateway is up and running now. There is a national effort to reduce data storage on CCE computers. The tillage transect is completed in Jennings Co.

### **Kelly Kent**

Written report submitted.

### **Denise Dailey**

Items going on in the county at this time. Dollar General Store is complete. Bridge at Scipio is complete. Met with Jenn Acres and everything is currently on hold. Ongoing projects include Hayden Collection, Meier Irrigation, and Chris Weber Stockpile on Mount St., Downtown Streetscape and the Moose Lodge.

### **Josey Huffmeyer**

There will be several special presentations at the upcoming Jennings Co. Fair just outside of the Homemakers building. Farm Safety – Tractor Safety, Livestock bio-security, grain safety.

### **Old Business**

#### **Soil Probes**

2 new soil probes were purchased and the staff has a tracking sheet for these.

#### **District Signs**

Imagination Graphics quoted a price of \$90 per real estate sign for the frame and double sided print. Matt Branham made a motion to purchase one sign to display at the library with a second from Dan Megel.

#### **SBOA – Bond Update**

After much research it was suggested that the board increase the coverage on the districts surety bond and add the second employee to this at the same time. Matt Branham made a motion to increase the bond on the 2 employees with a second from Jerry St. John. The new bond will cover each employee up to \$10k for a total premium of \$100.

#### **Fair Display**

Andy presented a PowerPoint to the board showing the work that has been completed in the wildlife building at the fairgrounds. We also covered which supervisor is attending the building on each night.

### **Shirts & Hats**

The new shirts and hats were distributed to the supervisors & associate supervisors.

### **Budget Update**

The county budget form was prepared by the staff, the only increase in funding that is requested is for staff salary and this will be determined on a county wide basis. The board approved and Brad signed the request that is to be submitted by July 1, 2015.

The budget hearing will be at the Government Center on August 11, 2015 at 10:20am.

- A committee was formed to organize a legislative breakfast. Jerry St. John volunteered to lead this and will be looking for others assistance.

### **Strawblower**

Jerry, Andy & Kelly met with Mike Clancy about buying out his share in the strawblower. After working out a deal to offset the amount owed to the district by Mr. Clancy and the work he performed for the district all parties agreed to a buyout of \$1374. The district now has full control of the equipment and has purchased decals to update on the machine.

### **New Business**

#### **Pollinator PowerPoint**

Andy presented a PowerPoint to those present talking about why pollinators are so important to all of us and what we as staff, supervisors and associate supervisors can talk to visitors at the fair about it.

- A committee was formed to promote pollinators, those volunteering for this committee are Dan Megel, Bob Steiner, Denise Dailey, Rob McGriff and Josey Huffmeyer.

#### **Updating Equipment Rental Rates**

With the district taking over the rental of the strawblower it is a good time to consider the rental rates on all the district owned equipment. At this time the supervisors would like to leave the No-Till Drill and Brillion Seeder at their current rates. It was suggested that the strawblower be rented on a daily basis of \$100/day until more information can be gathered on what a fair rate would be.

#### **Updating Rental Agreements**

Kelly checked with surrounding districts to see what information should be included on our rental agreements and these will be updated to reflect the changes. On the strawblower agreement there will be a statement that "the equipment will be returned with a full tank of diesel fuel or the renter will be charged at \$10/gallon" along with "the machine will be returned cleaned out or a cleaning rate of \$50/hour will be billed to the renter".

#### **District Transportation**

The staff presented some quotes for a district truck. After looking over the information the supervisors decided to table this item until the next meeting.

**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 Dan Megel with a second by Matt Branham at 8:52 pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member