

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
June 28, 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. Matt Branham, acting for Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**Board Members**

Matt Branham  
Tom Schneider  
Bob Steiner  
Jerry St. John

**Staff**

Andy Ertel  
**NRCS**  
Jenny Vogel

Those not present: Dan Megel, Brad Ponsler, Rob McGriff, Don Biehle

**Reading of the Minutes**

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the April 2016 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

**Financial Report**

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

**Correspondence**

- SBOA requires local governments and SWCD's to have Internal Controls in place. The County Government has developed their own internal controls and has asked each local government office to adopt these controls which fall in line with SBOA requirements. Also, each SWCD district are required to have some internal controls, such as an oversight committee. Andy relayed to the board that he and Kelly filled out a combined questionnaire from several districts that was like a checklist of district internal controls. Jennings had about 90% of those listed in place already. It was determined that the district board is an oversight committee and financials are reviewed monthly and yearly. Jerry St. John made a motion to adopt the county internal controls and keep our district internal controls. Tom Schneider made a second. All approved.
- Bonds were discussed. ISDA pays a company from Cincinnati to cover the Supervisors bond. The Jennings Co. Commissioners pay a company for all the County Employees and will pick up Kelly Kent and Andy Ertel this year as well.

Jerry St. John made a motion to follow the counties bond program with Kelly and Andy added. Tom Schneider made a second motion. All approved.

- Josey Huffmeyer emailed her annual Ag Advisory Meeting coming on July 14. Andy noted the office staff would attend.  
In a second email, Josey asked the board for help in promoting an upcoming Invasive Species Field Day to be held on August 27<sup>th</sup>. She also asked for meal sponsorship. The board decided to assist in the field day and Jerry St. John made a motion to provide up to \$250 for towards the meal with a second from Tom Schneider. All approved.

### **Agency & Committee Reports**

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

CSP Handout was given to everyone.

DC Talking Points was shared.

Reviewed the Cooperative Working Agreements for the agency.

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Strawblower was taken to Eagle Fleet for repair.

They will change the fuel filter and try to get it running.

They will call w/estimate if it's over \$250, if under that they will proceed with fixing it.

They put in a new battery.

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly was on vacation.

### **Old Business**

#### **Fairgrounds – Tank System**

- Andy and Matt will work on it at the Clean Up/Work Day on July 5 @ 6pm. Andy will email list of items need to do the clean-up.
- John's Guns has stuffed animals for our use at the Wildlife Building.
- Todd Vogel will have the turtles
- Adam Jackson will have the fish
- Bob Steiner will get the wetland plants & help with animal pick up.

### **Building Sign Up**

- The shifts are 5-10pm. Brad will do Monday, Dan will do Tuesday, Tom will do Wednesday, Jerry will do Thursday and Matt will do Friday.
- Andy will be in both spots.

### **Pathway Update**

- Progress since 7/9/15
- \$10k project all donated
- Working on signs
- Invited to present at a breakout session on Promoting Pollinators at the IASWCD Conference.

### **New Business**

#### **Pollinator Field Day**

The district will sponsor the meal. There was a question as to how far we promote this out in the area. It was decided to promote as much as possible. Andy sent letters to local beekeepers. An article will be in the Plain Dealer & Sun and Andy will be on the local radio promoting this field day. Jerry St. John made a motion to spend up to \$1000 for the meal with a second from Tom Schneider. Bob Steiner & Ralph Cooley will take photos at the event.

#### **Food Plot Field Day**

- Add in pond
- Add in natural predator controls
- September time frame, exact date will be determined later
- District will provide drinks & snacks (chips & cookies)
- Andy & Kelly will work on a date on either a Tue., Wed., or Thur.

#### **IDEA Conference**

This year's conference will be held at Lake Wawasee Oct 5-7, 2016. Jerry St. John made a motion for Andy and Kelly to attend with a second from Tom Schneider.

#### **County Budget**

The district will not ask for any increase in their line item budget. They will ask for a 5% salary increase. Jerry ask that the staff create a leverage sheet for the budget hearing.

#### **Old Copier**

The board asked Andy to check with other county offices first to see if any of them are in need of a copier/printer/scanner then if not he is to check with a not for profit or possible sell.

**Tractor Show**

This year's show will be handled by Larry Sporleder and other volunteers. The district will loan them the fence post and fence.

Tom Schneider has talked to Matt Sporleder about having a tractor show at the fairgrounds at a later date.

**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 Jerry St. John with a second by Tom Schneider at 8:17 pm

Minutes were taken by Jenny Vogel in Kelly Kent's absence.

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

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Chairman

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member