

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
June 20, 2023, 2023
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the USDA Conference room. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:37 a.m.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Tom Schneider
Matt Branham
Dan Megel

Staff

Kelly Kent
Becca McClellan
Andy Ertel

Associate Board Members

Jimmi Berkey

Partners

Reading of the Minute

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the April 2023 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the financial report as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Correspondence

IASWCD Dues – Dan Megel made a motion to pay the \$2000 IASWCD Dues with a second from Matt Branham, all were in favor.

SSCB Funds – Kelly informed the board that the State Soil Conservation Board will be receiving \$6 million from the state budget for 2023 and 2024. This will mean that the 92 districts will receive an additional \$10k for each of those years. We are still waiting for guidance from the SSCB as to how these funds can be utilized.

Employee FMLA – Kelly will be off 4 weeks for a medical procedure and has asked Brad to attend the next commissioners meeting to ask for the option to telework up to 20 hours a week for at least a few of the weeks during the medical leave. Matt Branham made a motion to approve this request with a second from Dan Megel, all were in favor.

Ongoing/Old Business

Fair Recap – All agreed that the fair went well, and we received many compliments on the building. Tom mentioned that he would like to pursue a better display option for the snake exhibit along with having a designated area for our evening speakers/presenters. He would like to see options to improve the aquariums also.

Calli/Tripton Bridge Project – Becca reported that she had received info that this planned project will no longer happen. Mr. Calli had originally agreed to this project but over time decided he was not for it. The Community Foundation will support Mr. Calli and no longer share an interest in this project. The county highway department will work on a plan for this bridge replacement project.

319 Grant – Andy reported that the steering committee will be meeting this Thursday to go over more of the target areas. The group has met 3 times working to select target areas and will continue to move forward.

New Business

Stormwater Prevention Plans and Ponds Andy spoke with Martin at IDEM to discuss options for landowners wanting to just install a farm pond and the need to just provide technical support rather than holding them to a Stormwater Prevention Plan. If the top of the dam and backslope is less than 1 acre disturbance, than no Stormwater Prevention Plan will be developed.

IDEA Fall Conference Registration

Kelly asked the board to approve the registration fee of \$150 per person for her and Becca. Dan Megel made a motion to approve with a second from Matt Branham. All approved.

Indiana Invasive Species Conference

Becca had sent out an email to request approval to attend this meeting. Matt Branham made a motion to approve the \$25 registration fee with a second from Tom Schneider, all were in favor. Becca has registered.

CWI Grant Funding 2024

Kelly reported that the guidance for the 2024 grant funding was sent out. This year the CWI fund will have \$1.8 million dollars available for the competitive round. She asked the board to think of any ideas that they would like to propose and bring those ideas to the July board meeting.

Update Laptops – Nov 2023

The staff laptops will be up for replacement and the current cost is around \$1900 each, it was recommended that we add this into our 2024 County Budget request.

County Budget Request – The county has not set a date yet, but the staff will be requesting the cost of the new laptops be added as a line item. The salaries were discussed, and Dan recommended that we request the high end of what the county may recommend.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS DC
Written Report

Kelly Kent - SWCD
Written Report

Becca McClellan – SWCD
Written Report

Andy Ertel - SWCD
Written Report

District Policy

Nothing New

Strategic Plan

Claims

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Schneider with a second by Matt Branham at 8:15 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member