

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
August 5, 2014
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 7:06 PM.

Supervisors

Brad Ponsler
Matt Branham
Nathan Burbrink
Dan Megel
Jerry St. John

Staff

Kelly Kent
Bob Steiner
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Contracted Technician

Denise Dailey
Associate Supervisor
Tom Schneider

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the June 2014 minutes as submitted, with a second from Nathan Burbrink.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the June 25, 2014 – August 5, 2014 financial report as submitted, with a second from Nathan Burbrink.

Correspondence

Thank you's were received from six 4-H award recipients.

Agency & Committee Reports

Staff Reports

Bob Steiner

Written report submitted. Essential Services did not meet.

Jenny Vogel

Written report submitted.

Kelly Kent

Written report submitted.

Denise Dailey

Nothing to report at this time.

Old Business

Storage Building

Kelly ordered the two new storage buildings that will be erected out behind the USDA Service Center to store the no-till drill and Brillion Seeder. Bob has removed the tree and Mike Clancy will be removing the stump and preparing to level off the ground in preparation for installation of the buildings. The normal 10% deposit is the commission which Mike would normally make from the sale of the buildings but he wanted to take that amount off of the strawblower bill and the board was in agreement with this. Mike will also be keeping track of his labor and equipment use to work off the strawblower debt.

Cost Share Program

Bob reported 10 operators applied for the cover crop cost share and approximately \$13,700 has been utilized of the \$20,000 allocated. Of those applying 3 were first time cover crop users.

Tractor Display

There was much discussion about this year's tractor display and parade at the fair. With fewer tractor owners participating and the amount of work involved a motion was made by Jerry St. John to no longer be the host of this activity with a second from Nathan Burbrink. The motion passed.

Some of the discussion on this matter was that the district look into hosting a tractor drive and show in the county. Items mentioned were starting and ending at the City Park with other groups setting up food/activity tents and the tractor drive going along a route that the district can highlight conservation practices that are being implemented. It was also suggested that the County Council and Commissioners be invited and possibly tour in a bus or their own vehicles to see what the SWCD is assisting with in the county. More will be discussed over the next several months on this topic.

Pond Clinic

Tom reported that he has the speakers and topics lined up for the August 26th Pond Clinic to be held at his pond. He will provide pop and water. Jerry St. John made a motion that the district purchase snacks with a second from Dan Megel. Jenny Vogel will donate the ice.

Budget Hearing

The county budget hearing was held earlier today. Brad, Bob & Kelly attended and reported that the county council seemed to be okay with the budget the district had submitted. We will hear from them at a later date as to what will be approved.

RCCP

Kelly reported that the district received word today that our pre-proposal was not selected to move on for funding.

New Business

“As the Worm Turns – a Soil Health Saga” Field Day Aug. 25th

As part of our CWI '14 grant with Bartholomew and Decatur counties we are co-sponsoring this field day at Roger Wenning's farm in Decatur Co. A flyer was passed out and Kelly will get with Jenna at Decatur County to see if there is anything that our district needs to help out with. Everyone was encouraged to take a flyer or two and share with someone. This looks to be a very good field day with information on soil health.

Chair & Vice-Chair Summit

Brad and Dan will not be able to attend this event due to other schedule conflicts.

Local Work Group

This is the group that meets to discuss what our natural resource needs are in the county. Brad asked Jenny to check and see what dates would be available and then send that out to the board members.

Goat Field Day

Final plans are being made with Extension on this event. Josey has been able to purchase goat burger and Kelly will be grilling these at the event. Drinks and snacks will be provided by the district.

Other New Business

Brad passed out an informational flyer regarding the EPA push to expand federal jurisdiction over wet features and dry lands by declaring them to be “waters of the U.S.” There will be a meeting explaining some of Farm Bureau's concern with this on August 7 at Miers Farm Corporation at Greensburg.

Conservation Plans

Bob signed plans as needed.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Jerry St. John with a second by Nathan Burbrink at 8:15 PM.

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant