

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
July 26, 2022
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 6:35 a.m.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Dan Megel
Matt Branham
Tom Schneider
Jimmi Berkey

Staff

Kelly Kent
Becca McClellan
Andy Ertel
NRCS
Jennifer Kipper

ISDA

Laura Fribley

Reading of the Minute

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the May 2022 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 Matt Branham.

Budget 2023

The board discussed our current budget and items that may need to be included for 2023, after this discussion Matt Branham made a motion to follow the County Councils recommendation for the rate increase and if no recommendation is made increase the request by 10%, seconded by Dan Megel. All in favor.

Correspondence

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

HHH RC&D Dues – After some discussions, this was tabled until the next meeting.

Summer District Meetings – August 25 @ Decatur Co. These are hosted by IASWCD and ISDA for the supervisors and staff. This year's meeting will be a networking and dinner with a speaker covering Strategies for Addressing Difficult Conservations and the USDA Farm Bill 2023. The cost is \$25 and covers the meal, facility, and speaker fees. Dan Megel made a motion to pay the registration fee for any staff and/or supervisors that would like to attend. Kelly, Becca, and Brad plan to attend currently. Deadline to register is August 11.

4-H Thank You – The SWCD received 3 Thank You notes from Jennings Co 4-Hers.

SEPAC Field Day – Brad advised everyone that the SEPAC Field Day will be August 30, 4pm - 830pm and PARP Credits will be offered.

Ongoing/Old Business

Landfill Update – Andy advised the board that he had met with Jim Reeves of the County Highway Department last week for follow up and updates. They plan to secure the entrance, continue mowing and fixing the ruts. IDEM had sent Andy an email earlier in the day to see where the county was on their follow ups. He replied with the updated info.

County Park

The pollinator area was replanted and looking much better.

Calli Update

The pollinator area is looking nice, the bench is now sealed and ready to be placed, we will need to get a couple of concrete blocks to sit the bench on to keep it level and from sinking.

319 Grant Update

Public Meetings was held, and we should see the grant ready to start around November of 2022.

Matt Branham made a motion to contract with Heather Wirth to be the Watershed Coordinator and Andy Ertel to be the Education Coordinator on this grant, with a second from Tom Schneider.

New Business

Soil Sample Price Increase +\$1.40

Kelly reported to the board that our cost for the Soil samples has been increased by \$1.40. Plus, the cost of postage to ship the samples has increase also. A motion was made by Dan Megel to increase the Soil Sample price from \$12 to \$15

Tom Bechman – Indiana Prairie Farmer Visit - Lunch

Andy reported that Tom Bechman would be here today to interview Brad and visit our Pollinator areas and activities of the SWCD over the last 7 years to create an article. He will meet with Brad and then, Tom, Brad, Andy, and Becca will visit the sites and would like to take Tom out for lunch after this. Tom Schneider made a motion that the district cover the lunch with a second from Dan Megel. All in favor.

Locally Led Meeting

Andy and Jennifer advised the board on how the Locally Led Meeting will be handled this year and that we will be meeting August 23 @ 6:30 a.m. to complete this ranking.

Staff Work Hours

Becca asked the board to allow her to continue the work hours of 7am – 3pm. This was the hours that Andy worked as the Executive Director and while he is training Becca. Kelly will maintain the work hours of 8am – 4pm to coincide with the county office work hours. Due to the nature of our business, there are times that someone may want to rent equipment or purchase geo-textile fabric before or after the regular government agency hours. With this time adjustment we can have at least 1 hour of operational coverage.

2023 Resolution Discussion

The district board would like to entertain thoughts on a resolution to be submitted to the state regarding Closed or Abandoned Land Fills and funding to assist counties with this due to IDEM mandated requirements. Kelly will send out the resolution form to the board for comments in submitting something to the state for vote at the IASWCD Annual Meeting.

State Conference

The next year's conference will be held at the Westin Indianapolis on January 8 – 10, 2023, Kelly and Becca would like to go up on Sunday, Kelly will be attending the IDEA Directors meeting. The main part of the conference will begin on Monday and that is when the Supervisors generally arrive to attend.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jennifer Kipper – NRCS Acting DC
Written Report

Becca McClellan – SWCD
Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD
Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD
Written Report

District Policy

Nothing New

Claims

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Dan Megel with a second by Tom Schneider 8:12 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member