

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
August 4, 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 7:02 p.m.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Jerry St. John
Tom Schneider
Matt Branham
Dan Megel
Bob Steiner

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Contracted Technician

Denise Dailey

DSS

Tara Wesseler

ISDA

Kevin Baird

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the June 2015 minutes as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the June 24 – August 4, 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. **Decision: Members unable to attend Fair Oaks Event**

Supervisor Summit

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

Decision: Members unable to attend.

4-H Thank You

The district received a Thank You from Mark Sargeant for the Sport fishing plaque.

JC Park & Rec

A letter asking for support of the Jennings County Park and Rec was read stating that they would receive funding from the Jennings County Community Foundation for playground equipment at the County Park and Eco Park if they could raise their portion of the funds.

Action: The district cannot make a contribution being a unit of State Government. However, Brad encouraged those in attendance to support this individually if they could.

SBOA

The district received a letter from IASWCD in regards to the new charges effective July 1, 2015 for SBOA audits of districts. It stated that the old rate of \$45/day would increase to \$175/day going forward for audits that will be conducted once every four years. It appears that the rate could impact the districts budget with amounts be \$1200 - \$1500 per audit.

Agency & Committee Reports

Staff Reports:

Andy Ertel - Written report submitted.

Kelly Kent - 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. ACEP sign up has ended with Indiana submitting 25 applications of which 21 were eligible and of those 9 were tentatively selected for funding.

Annual awards that the district is eligible to submit nominations for are: Conservationist of the Year, Supervisor of the Year, River Friendly Farmer. Jenny encouraged the board to consider making nominations.

Historic Hoosier Hills

Bob Steiner reported that 2 groups had contacted HHH RC&D for assistance with future project funding. Also the group will hold a Storytelling event on August 20th. More information on this will be shared with the district.

Denise Dailey

Report was the same as last month with the exception of the project manager of the Scipio bridge project wanted to meet on the mitigation areas lack of density. They looked at the site and will continue to follow up on it in the future.

Tara Wesseler

Tara provided the supervisors with a one page sheet going over many of the items coming up in the near future.

Kevin Baird

Kevin introduced himself to those that did not know him. He thanked the board for letting him attend our meeting. The information he was going to share was covered in Tara's handout. He is available to assist the district with any technical issues we may need in the future.

Old Business

Fair Display

The board commented on how nice the district's display and the wildlife building were at the fair this year. Andy reported that there were several folks in the building each night and the pollinator project was well on its way in Jennings County. More information about wildlife building items will be addressed at the September board meeting.

Budget Hearing

Jerry St. John and Andy Ertel attended the rescheduled budget hearing on Monday, August 3rd. They felt like the council was on board with the budget submitted and explained some of the items that the district is currently working on. They advised the council we would be hosting a legislative gathering at the end of the month.

District Transportation

Matt did some further research on the trucks and his recommendation was to go with the Ford F-150 with the 2.7L V-6 Eco Boost based on horsepower and torque which increased the original quote about \$1000. Jerry St. John made a motion to purchase the Ford pickup with a second from Dan Megel all were in favor.

Tractor Parade

Tom shared with the board that with all of the road construction, buildings being torn down, ball tournaments, other tractor shows and etc., he and the staff felt like trying to hold one this year would not be wise. Tom will check with the city council, the park and Reddington Rearwheelers to see when a good weekend to host this would be in August of 2016.

New Business

Pollinator Committee Report

Dan and Andy spoke about what the Pollinator committee is working on. There will be a pollinator committee training with speaker Peggy Stark on Tuesday, August 11th beginning at 10am at SEPAC. Peggy will educate the committee on pollinators so that the staff and committee members can have accurate education information to share with local folks to promote our pollinator project.

Legislative Gathering

Jerry and Andy spoke about the upcoming Legislative Gathering and Andy showed a PowerPoint presentation that will be shown during the event. It was decided that this will be held at the Scipio

Firehouse on Tuesday, August 25 beginning at 6pm and lasting only about 1 hour. Kelly will mail out personal invitations to the county council, commissioners, state legislators, SSCB members, and Jane Hardisty, NRCS State Conservationist. The invitation extends to those and their spouses or significant other. Bids were taken for the catered meal and the board decided to use Rolling Pin Catering for this as they were \$2.50 less per person for a comparable meal.

Wildlife Food Plot Field Day

Tom spoke about hosting a food plot field day next year at his farm. More details to follow.

Newsletter Sponsorship Opportunity

The district staff was contacted by Dan McGuckin about sponsoring our next newsletter. Discussion was held about the rate to be charged and the size of his sponsorship, with that the board decided a business card sized ad would be \$200. Andy will contact Mr. McCluckin to see if he would be interested in this opportunity.

Contribution Agreement

The district received information about a new contribution agreement with NRCS to provide administrative services for agricultural programs as authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. Proposals are due to the IASWCD office by Friday, August 28, 2015. Some discussion was held whether or not the staff would be interested in providing this service.

Decision: It was suggested that we submit a proposal and see what comes of it. With more discussion if our proposal is accepted.

CWI

The application process for the 2016 CWI Grants was received by the district. Again this year they are accepting multi-county applications to address Soil Health and Water Quality.

Decision: The board advised the staff to work with other counties to see if there was a need in our area and if so to proceed with the application process.

IDEA Conference

This conference will be held on Monday, October 5 to Wednesday, October 7 in Evansville at the Tropicana Hotel and Conference Center. The cost for district employees who are IDEA members is \$125 registration fee with the hotel cost of \$75 per room per night.

Decision: Dan Megel made a motion to send Kelly and Andy to this conference with a second from Jerry St.John.

Strategic Plans

No information was shared at this meeting other than the plan is being updated and we will address those changes at the September meeting. Photos of the board members were taken to add to the Legislative PowerPoint.

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 Dan Megel at 9:00 pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member