

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
August 23, 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. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

**Board Members**

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

**Staff**

Andy Ertel  
Kelly Kent  
**NRCS**  
Jenny Vogel

**Guest**

Beth Steiner

Those not present: Rob McGriff, Don Biehle

**Reading of the Minutes**

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the June 2016 minutes as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

**Financial Report**

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

**Correspondence**

- Beth Steiner, representing Jennings Co. Extension Homemakers attended the meeting to ask the board for financial support of the groups Reading Program. This program provides a book related to soil & water conservation to every kindergarten student in Jennings Co. Dan Megel made a motion to support this by purchasing the books at a cost of \$350 with a second from Tom Schneider.
- Several Thank You's were received from 4-Hers that received awards sponsored by the SWCD

**Agency & Committee Reports**

**Rule 5** – Andy updated the board with the Rule 5 projects of Metaldyne, Jen Acres and spoke about finishing up with the Moose and Chris Weber property.

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report  
Andy Ertel – SWCD  
Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD  
Written Report

### **Old Business**

#### **Pollinator Field Day**

- The board was pleased with the attendance of 124 people and thanked the staff and committee for all their hard work.

#### **Recap Budget Hearing/Council Request**

Andy and Brad attended the initial budget hearing in early August and reported that the council was appreciative of the district continuing to keep cost low.

Then last week they asked the Auditor to notify offices that they need to review their request and make cuts if they want employees to have a raise. Andy and Kelly looked at the last few years expenditures compared to budget received and found that the district is already operating on a budget that falls about 20% short annually, so no deductions were taken. Andy drafted a letter from Brad to address this with the county council.

### **New Business**

#### **Wildlife Field Day**

The district will host a Wildlife Field Day on Thursday, September 22 beginning at 6pm and ending around 7:30 pm. The event will take place at Tom & Karen Schneider's. The topics will include Wildlife Food Plots and mixes that attract desired wildlife, dealing with nuisance wildlife and funding opportunities. Snacks and drinks will be provided by the SWCD.

#### **Submitted District Showcase Application**

Andy advised the board that he had submitted an application on behalf of the district to the IASWCD for their consideration of the Jennings Co SWCD's Pollinator Pathway.

#### **4<sup>th</sup> Grade Ag Day**

This year's Ag Day will be on Wed. Sept. 14 at the Jennings Co. Fairgrounds.

#### **5<sup>th</sup> Grade Forestry Field Day**

This year's Forestry Field Day will be on Tuesday, September 27 and Wednesday, September 28 at Selmier Forest. All volunteer speakers are confirmed at this time.

### **Annual Meeting**

The board discussed ideas for the Annual Meeting. It was decided by all the board members to hold the meeting at the Rolling Hills Shrine Club on Tuesday, March 7 @ 6pm with a snow date of Thursday, March 9. The caterer will continue to be the Rolling Pin. The staff asked the board to think of someone to be our guest speaker along with nominations for our annual awards such as – Conservationist of the Year, Friend of Conservation and some special recognition for the Pollinator Pathway committee. Kelly will look into some guest speaker options.

Matt Branham voiced concern with the sound system at the Shrine Club and will look into some options to improve this.

### **Local Work Group Meeting**

The board decided to hold our Local Work Group meeting at the beginning of our September board meeting instead of having a separate meeting.

### **Old Golf Course**

The mayor of North Vernon has formed a committee to look at making the old Ford's Crossing Golf Course into a nature park. Mike Miller approached Andy Ertel about the district giving some guidance on Pollinator areas. Andy asked the board to donate the use of the drill for this 5 acre project if they go through with it. The board was willing to donate the use at no cost to the city.

### **JCSC – Pollinator Patches**

Andy reported that Amber Fields with the JCSC is ready to move forward with planned Pollinator Patches at the old N.V. Jr. High Football field and Sand Creek Elementary and the board will also allow them the use of the drill to plant the seed when their ready.

### **Shirts & Jackets**

Matt suggested that it would be nice for the staff and supervisors to have SWCD logo long sleeve shirts to wear to district events and meetings. The board asked Kelly to look into some options before the next meeting.

### **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 Matt Branham at 8:11 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