

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

September 24, 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 7:03 PM.

Supervisors

Brad Ponsler
Matt Branham
Jerry St. John
Dan Megel

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 August 2014 minutes as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the August 6, 2014 – September 23, 2014 financial report as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

Correspondence

Thank you notes were received from one 4-H award recipient and Josey Huffmeyer for the district's work on the recent Goat Field Day.

Indiana Woodland Steward sent a request for financial support of the newsletters sent to 636 Jennings County landowners 3 times a year. Dan Megel made a motion to contribute \$250 towards the cost of this publication promoting conservation practices for woodland owners with a second from Jerry St. John.

Agency & Committee Reports

Staff Reports

Bob Steiner

Written report submitted. Essential Services approved rezoning for 6 JC schools, 2 cell phone towers, Hayden Museum and Chris Weber's lawn irrigation service.

Bob also reported that we have received the payment for the services he provided on the CRP program and that at this time NRCS is looking at their budget for next year in cutting costs. It was recommended that Bob draft a letter to Jane Hardisty regarding the huge benefit of this program to our local SWCD. Over the past 2 years of this program the district received around \$19,000 which helped fund our most recent SWCD cost-share program.

Jenny Vogel

Written report submitted. Also reported was the \$14.5 million in EQIP funds covered 598 applications with an additional 286 applications preapproved if more funding became available.

Kelly Kent

Written report submitted.

Denise Dailey

Denise reported working with the Town of Vernon, John Post, on drainage issues. Morgan Landscaping is building a campground area next to his lawn care business and cleared trees before having a Storm Water Prevention Plan developed. He is supposed to be getting with the engineer and getting this plan created so that they will be in compliance with the law. The Scipio bridge project has started and the Moose Lodge project is being worked on also. A Long Term Control plan is being worked on for Hickory Manor and Norris Heights at this time.

Old Business

Storage Building

The area for the buildings is still being worked on and no date has been given for installation.

Cost Share Program

Bob reported 12 operators applied for the cover crop cost share and approximately \$19,500 has been utilized of the \$20,000 allocated. Of those applying 4 were first time cover crop users.

Local Work Group Update

Each year Jenny and Bob host a local work group meeting inviting SWCD supervisors, Purdue Extension, IDNR, Commissioners and other community leaders to go over the local resource concerns in our county. This year due to a lack of those members attending, Jenny asked each of the board members to fill out the ranking sheet based on their views of these resource concerns so that she can compile the responses to report.

Goat Field Day Update

Bob & Kelly reported that this event was attended by 45 people and that since the event the SWCD has been asked for assistance by 3 goat owners. Most everyone enjoyed the goat burgers served at this event and felt that it was worth their time.

Ag Day Update

This event is held for all of the 4th grade students in Jennings County. Board members expressed that their children and grandchildren seemed to enjoy the event.

5th Grade Forestry Field Days

This event will take place on Tuesday, September 30 and Wednesday, October 1 at Selmier State Forest. Bob has lined up all the speakers and the district will provide lunch for these volunteers.

Pond Clinic

Tom reported that the pond clinic went well with 64+ people in attendance

Tractor Drive

At the previous meeting it was decided that the SWCD will no longer host the Antique Tractor display at the Jennings Co Fair and that they would look into hosting a 1 day tractor drive instead. Brad Ponsler volunteered to check with Raymond Rascoe and/or Becky Thompson to see when a good date for something like this would be. Brad will report back to the board at the next meeting.

New Business

CWI'15 Grant Application

Bob reported that we had met with Bartholomew and Decatur counties with the idea of applying for this new grant. At the meetings it was decided that we would submit an applications for cover-crops along with edge of field monitoring. To help boost our application each district plans to split approximately \$25k over a 3 year period to cover some or all of the cost of the edge of field monitoring. The application is due October 1st and Decatur County will be the lead district on this.

SARE Grant Application

Jennings, Decatur, Bartholomew, and Delaware counties are working together to submit an application for a SARE Grant. At this time Decatur County is talking to a local farmer to see what kind of research he would like to see done so that the group can submit an application by the October 31st deadline.

Outlook Meeting

This year's Outlook Meeting will be held on Thursday, November 20th at 9:30 AM at the Jennings Co. Public Library. Josey Huffmeyer, Purdue Extension ANR is in charge of getting the speakers for this event.

Annual Meeting

There was discussion on what date we would hold our Annual Meeting. The date selected was Thursday, February 26 at 6pm at the Rolling Hills Shrine Club with the meal being catered by Rolling Pin Catering. After some discussion the board asked Kelly to get a price on Katie Stam Irk's speaking fee. Kelly is checking with Midwest Ag to see if they would sponsor Katie for this event. Kelly is also checking with Kevin Cox to see if he would be available for these dates. More information about the speaker/entertainment TBA.

Supervisor Election Committee

Kelly informed the board that Jerry St. John (appointed) and Nathan Burbrink (elected) would be up for reappointment/reelection at this years' Annual Meeting. The board decided to reappoint Jerry St. John for another 3 year term.

The election committee will be Dan Megel as Chairman of this committee, Brad Ponsler and Matt Branham as committee members. Kelly will report the election committee on SharePoint by the November 1st deadline.

Conservation Plans

Bob signed plans as needed.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Matt Branham with a second by Dan Megel at 8:32 PM
Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant