

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
September 22, 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 7:00 p.m.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler

Dan Megel

Tom Schneider

Bob Steiner

Staff

Kelly Kent

Andy Ertel

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

Contracted Technician

Denise Dailey

Extension Partners

Josey Huffmeyer

Reading of the Minutes

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the August 2015 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the August 5, 2015 – September 22, 2015 financial reports as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Correspondence

4-H Thank You

The district received a Thank You from Clare & Therese Hauersperger for supporting the 4-H program.

Resignation Letter

Denise Dailey, Contracted Technician, submitted her letter of resignation effective 12/31/2015. Brad read the letter to the board. Tom Schneider made a motion to accept Denise's resignation with a second from Dan Megel. Brad expressed the boards' gratitude to Denise for all her years of assistance with Rule 5 in Jennings County. Denise will be meeting with Andy before the end of the year to go over any existing projects that are ongoing.

Indiana Woodland Stewardship

The district received a request letter from this group to consider sponsoring the newsletters that they send out to residents of Jennings County. Dan Megel made a motion to pay \$250 towards this with a second from Tom Schneider.

Agency & Committee Reports

Committee Reports:

Legislative Committee – Brad reported that he thought our meeting went well and thanked the staff for their hard work.

Pollinator Committee – Dan gave the board an update of the past meeting stating that the group now has a Share Some Space action plan and they are continuing to move forward with working with the schools on their Monarch Butterfly waystations and other potential locations throughout the county. Dan asked the board for \$1000 to purchase seed for 1/16 – ¼ acre plots for pollinators. Dan made a motion to give the Pollinator Committee these funds with a second from Tom Schneider. Bob Steiner spoke to Roy Green with the Coffee Creek Conservation Club to see if they would be able to make a \$500 donation to the Pollinator Committee for special “Pollinator Protector Habitat” signs. The district staff is working with Imagination Graphics to get prices for these signs at the time.

Staff Reports:

Andy Ertel - Written report submitted.

Kelly Kent - Written report submitted.

Jenny Vogel - Written report submitted.

Historic Hoosier Hills

Bob Steiner reported that the RC&D just completed a financial audit. They will be hosting a fundraising workshop on Oct. 9th. There is now 4 part-time grant writers for the RC&D as needed. He also reported that the Lincoln Hills RC&D is folding up shop and that Terry Stephenson would be contacting them to see if HHH could be of any assistance to them with pending projects. The RC&D has processed 7 grant requests one of which is for a Model Railroad Museum in Rising Sun.

Denise Dailey

Denise will be meeting with the project manager of the Scipio bridge project on the mitigation areas lack of density. She is working with the county on another bridge project.

Josey Huffmeyer – Purdue Extension

Josey updated the board with a couple of events that Purdue Extension will be hosting. Thursday, September 24, 2015 there will be a composting event at the Jennings Co. Recycling and on October 20th they will host an event on Cover Crops for your garden. Also that 4-H enrollment will be October 1, 2015 – January 15, 2016.

Old Business

District Transportation

Kelly told the board that the district truck has been ordered and should arrive sometime around the first part of October.

Newsletter Sponsor

Dan McGuckin agreed to sponsor our newsletter for 1 year (4 issues) at a rate of \$125 for a business card sized ad.

CRP Payment Received

The contribution agreement that the district signed is now complete and payment for our services has been received.

New Business

2016 CWI Grant

The district staff decided that we would not seek a 2016 grant at this time so that we could focus all of our attention on the current 2014 CWI Grant.

Ag Outlook Meeting

After some discussion about continuing the Ag Outlook meeting, Dan Megel made a motion for the district to continue this meeting in conjunction with Jennings Co. Purdue Extension and that the district cover the cost of the meal with a second from Tom Schneider.

Drainage Issues @ Fairgrounds

Andy advised the board that he had been working with the Jennings Co. Fairboard to address the drainage issues on the East side of the show arena. He took this information to the fairboard so that they could create a plan of action.

Marketing your SWCD

Andy went through a brief review of the several marketing techniques the SWCD currently uses in providing public service.

Board Election Committee Appointment

Those up for re-election or appointment are Matt Branham & Dan Megel. With that our election committee will be Brad Ponsler-Chairman and Jerry St. John along with Tom Schneider as members. They will solicit for additional persons to serve on the board. Dan Megel was asked if he would continue on the board as a supervisor and he agreed to so he was reappointed. Matt Branham has agreed to run for re-election. Dan Megel asked Denise Dailey to consider coming on the board after her resignation as a contracted technician to serve as an Associate Supervisor and she agreed to consider this appointment.

Annual Meeting

The board chose March 15 @ 6pm at the Rolling Hills Shrine Club as their Annual Meeting date and location. They instructed Kelly to confirm the location, caterer (Rolling Pin) and Andy Ertel will contact

Fred Whitford to request that he is our speaker for this event. The snow date would be Thursday, March 17th.

November Meeting Date Change

Due to the Thanksgiving Holiday the board changed the November meeting date to November 17, 2015.

District Business – Building Improvement

Andy informed the board that he had ordered some gravel to fill in around the new storage buildings in back of the office while Jerry St. John had his equipment here to put the Geo-Textile fabric on the rack.

Gas Card

Kelly researched an option for a gas card for the district’s new truck. The company is WEX and they have a program with no set-up fees that the district can sign up for. This will provide a gas card that will be specific to the district truck. Tom Schneider made a motion that we get signed up for this gas card with a second from Dan Megel.

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 Dan Megel with a second by Tom Schneider at 8:28 pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member