

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
September 27, 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 7:01pm.

**Board Members**

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

**Staff**

Andy Ertel  
Kelly Kent

**NRCS**

Jenny Vogel

**Locally Led Work Group Meeting**

A special meeting was held prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting to take a survey on what resource concerns need to be addressed in Jennings Co. Andy Ertel had emailed the survey along with a letter explaining the importance of input by several officials, partners etc. in the community. Those present were asked to rank by priority what resource concerns they would like to address in the future.

**Reading of the Minutes**

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the August 2016 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

**Financial Report**

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

**Correspondence**

- Indiana Woodland Association ask that the district support a portion of the production cost of the quarterly newsletter sent out to 636 landowners in Jennings Co. After some discussion Jerry St. John made a motion to pay \$250 towards this cost with a second from Tom Schneider.

**Agency & Committee Reports**

**Rule 5** – Andy updated the board with the Rule 5 projects of Metaldyne, Jen Acres, Storage Express, Streetscape, Rails to Trails and LP Investments.

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report and USDA CSP Fact Sheet

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

## **Old Business**

### **Extension – Invasive Program Cancelled**

Due to a lack of participation this program was cancelled

### **WRE Program – Postponed**

At this time the program was unable to be completed this year and will be reassessed for next year.

### **Annual Meeting Speaker**

Andy informed the board of the cost associated with the 2 speakers that were being considered and after receiving a quote of \$2100 and \$4200 the board decided that the cost was too high. Jenny had seen a Dr. John Scott Foster recently at the Eastern Native Grass Symposium and suggested we check with him on his availability and cost. Kelly will check and report back to the board at the next meeting.

### **Wildlife Food Plot Field Day**

Andy and Tom reported a good event with a total of 23 participants was held. Tom felt like it went over well and would like the board to know that he is interested in hosting another one next year.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Year Pollinator Project – Schools, Atterbury**

Andy reported that we are moving forward in our second year of the Pollinator Committee and already have commitments with the JCSC for planting the old football field at the old Jr High school and the grass area at Sand Creek between the school and highway but they will be leaving a parking area to be utilized by the fair parking.

The pollinator committee will be meeting on Tuesday, October 4 @ 10am in Conference Room 1 at the Jennings Co. Public Library.

## **New Business**

### **CWI Grant Submitted**

A 2017 grant application was submitted by Jennings, Ripley & Franklin counties in the amount of \$144k to continue promotion of planting pollinator habitat. The grants should be awarded sometime in October.

### **Election Committee**

Brad Ponsler will be up for re-election this year. The committee will be Dan Megel, chairman, and committee members Jerry St. John, Matt Branham and Tom Schneider. Nominees will be due before Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **County Budget Hearing**

The Jennings Co. Council was meeting this evening to approve budget requests. Based on information shared by the county Auditor the district should receive the amount requested with staff receiving a 1.5% raise.

### **District Showcase Application**

The Jennings Co. SWCD's application was selected as an award recipient for 1 of 4 District Showcase Awards in the state. With this award the district will receive 1 free registration for the Annual Meeting to be held in Indianapolis on Jan 23 - 24, 2017.

### **Shirts**

Matt Branham had mentioned at the August meeting that it would be nice to have long sleeve shirts with the district logo when attending SWCD events. The board asked Kelly to research prices and options. Kelly did research this information and presented it to the board members. After some discussion Dan Megel made a motion to purchase each board member and staff 1 long sleeve shirt with the logo embroidered on it.

### **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 Tom Schneider 8:30 pm  
Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant  
Minutes approved by:

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Chairman

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Vice-Chairman

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Member

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Member

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Member