

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
September 29, 2020
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the Jennings County Community Building due to the Level 2 at the USDA Service Center. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:30 am. The meeting began with the Local Working Group Ranking.

At 6:52 am we began our regular scheduled board meeting

Board Members

Dan Megel
Jerry St. John
Brad Ponsler
Matt Branham
Kameron Garlitch
Bob Steiner

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel

NRCS

Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minute

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the August 2020 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.

CD Renewal/Withdrawal

The district funds in the CD was up for renewal on 9/28/20 and the new rates are so low that Dan Megel made a motion to withdrawal the funds and interest and put into our savings account to wait and see if CD interest rates increase, with a second from Matt Branham. The staff will periodically check the rates and keep the board advised.

Correspondence

Woodland Steward Newsletter sponsorship was discussed and a motion to support them for \$250 was made by Matt Branham with a second by Dan Megel.

Old Business

Roof Painted – The Conservation Building roof at the fairgrounds has been painted and the bill paid by the district.

Review MOU/Annual Civil Rights and Equal Opportunities – Jenny had emailed out the documents for review prior to the meeting and the board signed the documents that was needed.

Election Committee – Matt reported that the committee has found someone to run for the District Supervisor position that will be open after the announcement that Jerry St. John will be retiring.

Annual Meeting Updates - The Community Building has been reserved. We still need to find a speaker if we plan to have one this year.

New Business

Contribution Agreement – Andy signed the contract agreement between the district and the Bartholomew Co SWCD to do contract items 1, 2, and 3 which covers CRP Establishment, CRP Maintenance and CRP Re-Enroll for a 5year period.

School Field Days – Bob and his wife, Beth thought that since we could not do the fields days with the schools this year due to COVID that it might be nice to have each of the presenters come in and do a video that could be saved on a thumb drive and given to each teacher to view with the students. Jenny then add that it might need to be uploaded as a You Tube video instead. Andy mentioned that since this school year has so many challenges and changes that he would like to check with the school corporation to see how much interest there may be in doing this before asking the presenters.

Fish Sale – Dan mentioned that he wondered if there would be an interest in Jennings Co if the district held a fish sale sometime. Jenny said that there were several at Bartholomew Co SWCD from Jennings Co that purchased this year and that the district makes pretty good money on these sales. The staff will do the research to see what the numbers are truly like based on the surrounding counties that are already hosting these. Information will be emailed out to supervisors once the data is received.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Andy also reported that the county received additional funding from the Cares Act that the district qualified to purchase 2 new laptop computers for the staff. This will allow them to telework from home if the County would have another shutdown due to COVID-19. In addition, the condition of the office staff desk chairs was deteriorating so much so that the staff had to duct tape the arms to keep the “stuffing” from being exposed which created the inability to keep them sanitized. This fund allowed the district staff to purchase 2 new bonded leather desk chairs that can be sanitized. The total amount of money the district saved by applying for the Cares Act fund was \$3300

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

District Policy

Claims

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry St. John with a second by Matt Branham at 7:42 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member