

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
September 27, 2022
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the USDA Conference room. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:38 a.m.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Kevin Morin
Matt Branham
Bob Steiner
Jimmi Berkey

Staff

Kelly Kent
Becca McClellan
Andy Ertel
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minute

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the August 2022 minutes as submitted, with a second from Kevin Morin.

Financial Report

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

Correspondence

Indiana Woodland Steward

The newsletter is mailed to 583 Jennings Co landowners. This is completed at a cost of \$909.48 and the Jennings Co SWCD has traditionally sponsored \$250 towards printing costs. Matt Branham made a motion to continue with the \$250 contribution with a second from Kevin Morin. All in Favor.

HHH RC&D Dues – Bob presented some updated in on the status of HHH and Matt made a motion to table until all 5 board members were present to decide.

Ongoing/Old Business

Proposed Landfill Resolution – Andy had emailed the board with some verbiage for the proposed resolution involving the state having funding to assist local districts with the rules of maintaining a closed landfill set by IDEM. This was submitted to IASWCD.

Landfill Update – The landfill has been mowed, a barrier put in place and fill dirt from O’Mara’s was placed in the areas with ruts.

5th Grade Forestry Field Day

This year’s event was cancelled due to the JCSC.

ArbNet – This organization reached out to Brad Ponsler after seeing him in the article that Tom Beckman wrote about him receiving the Supervisor of the Year and the districts ongoing support of Tripton Park. Particularly they would like to know if Tripton Park would like to submit to be included in this project. Becca has done some research and there seems to be some stipulations that we may not be interested in fulfilling. More info to come.

Calli Nature Preserve – The bench has been placed in Calli along one of the trails. The road back to Calli is scheduled to be paved soon. Andy will continue to keep in touch with the County Highway Dept. about this.

Bridge No. 29 (Sand Creek)

This is an old Iron Bridge that the state is looking at relocating to connect Tripton Park to the Calli Nature Preserve. Funding for this would be from Federal and State but a completion date of 2025. Andy and Becca attended a meeting and will keep the board up to date on this project.

New Business

Annual Meeting – After some discussion the 72Nd Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, beginning at 6pm at the Jennings County Community Building with Rolling Pin Catering, Kelly will contact Chad Pregracke with Living Lands & Waters to see what his speaking fees would be and if he is available, then report back to the board. It was also mentioned that the Professor at Ball State speaking about Bats would also be an option. Ticket cost will be determined once the catering cost has been confirmed.

Election Committee – This year’s election committee will be Dan Megel, Matt Branham, and Tom Schneider. Nominations are due from this committee by November 30, 2022

Nominations – Brad Ponsler is the only one currently up for re-election. Brad did agree to run again.

IASWCD State Conference

This year’s conference is scheduled for January 8 – 10, 2023. Registration and info will be coming out soon and Kelly will forward that to the Supervisors and Staff as soon as she received it.

Strawblower Damage – One of the renters this week had an employee that backed into the Strawblower damaging the safety “fence” guard. Andy recommended that they just cut that section out and replace with a new piece and weld it on. He will get with the owner to take care of this.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS DC
Written Report

Becca McClellan – SWCD
Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD
Written Report

Kelly updated the board about the drainage project at the fairgrounds. It was revealed at the 4-H Council meeting last night that the project was scheduled to start October 1, 2022 and completed by January 1, 2023.

Andy Ertel – SWCD
Written Report

District Policy

Nothing New

Strategic Plan

Claims

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Branham with a second by Kevin Morin at 8:00 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member