

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
October 27, 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
Jerry St. John
Matt Branham
Rob McGriff
Bob Steiner

Staff

Kelly Kent
Andy Ertel
NRCS
Jenny Vogel
Darrell Nicholson

Contracted Technician

Denise Dailey

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the September 2015 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the September 23, 2015 – October 27, 2015 financial reports as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

Correspondence

NACD Dues

The NACD has restructured their dues and with some discussion a motion to pay \$250 as a bronze level member was made by Jerry St. John with a second by Matt Branham.

Region Meeting Conf. Call

Each region hosts a yearly meeting and this year in lieu of that they will be hosting a conference call on Monday, November 9 @ 730pm. The call should last no more than 75 minutes and will include information from IASWCD, ICP, SSCB, ISDA, IDEM, FSA, and NRCS. Supervisors and staff are encouraged to listen in.

4-H Thank You

The district received a Thank You from Rachel, Abraham, & Jessica for supporting the 4-H program.

Agency & Committee Reports

Committee Reports:

Pollinator Committee – Dan gave an update on the activities of this committee – last meeting had 12-13 in attendance. The staff has ordered some seed for larger pollinator areas with the funding received from Coffee Creek Conservation Club and will start distributing to landowners for planting. Andy asked the board if we wanted to have a small fee for the seed and instead the board would like to put together a letter telling the landowner what the cost would normally be and if they would like to make a tax-deductible donation for their seed to see what kind of response that we would get.

Staff Reports:

Andy Ertel - Written report submitted.

Kelly Kent - Written report submitted.

Jenny Vogel - Written report submitted.

Historic Hoosier Hills

Bob Steiner reported that he was unable to attend their last meeting, but they do have some workshop/meetings coming up. Woodland Committee is hosting a Pollinator meeting on Tuesday, November 3rd @ 6pm with a cost of \$10 which includes dinner. Then on Thursday, November 5th @ 6pm the Indian Creek Watershed along with the Pollinator Stewardship Council will have a program on Controlling Spray Drift.

Denise Dailey

Denise is staying in touch with IDEM by letting them know that the permit process is weak and trainings and/or workshops are needed to educate folks. She is working on a new Bridge 52 project at Butlerville over Otter Creek and she is still working with the engineers on the Scipio Bridge and will not sign off on it until the native vegetation is well established.

Darrell Nicholson – NRCS Area Conservationist

Darrell commended the board and staff on how well we function and all the programs and activities that we are involved with.

Old Business

District Transportation

The staff informed the board that the new truck should arrive this week and the insurance has been set-up and purchased.

Election Committee Nominee

Brad reported that Matt Branham agreed to run again for supervisor and that the committee re-appointed Dan Megel to another 3 year term.

3rd Grade Great Outdoor Days

Andy asked the board if we would like to suspend our leadership role in this activity. After much discussion the board decided that we should keep this. Bob Steiner stated how much the teachers and students enjoyed this along with the current presenters. Dan Megel said that he would like to help with this next year but wasn't sure he was educated and Rob McGriff assured him that he could be trained. Brad committed that the board needs to analyze the things that the district provides from time to time.

Ag Outlook Update

A flyer about this event was passed around. Josey Huffmeyer has mailed letters to all those who hold the certifications and that may need to attend. We currently have 2 sponsors for this event – Gasper Seed and LG Seeds.

New Business

IDEA Conference Update

Andy reported that the conference that he and Kelly attended was very good. Andy spoke about the opening session with Scott Ham along with the breakout sessions he attended on Invasive Species and Water Regulations. Kelly spoke about the breakout sessions she attended on Professional Business/Conflict Management and District Deadlines/Yearly Operations. The staff felt this conference was well worth their time and thank the supervisors for allowing them to attend.

Rule 5/Pond Site

We have a unique situation where a landowner is considering building a pond on his farm but because of the size of it he will need a Rule 5 plan. At this time our fee schedule does not have a set fee for a project that is agriculture non-commercial. After much discussion Dan Megel made a motion to set up a new fee schedule to include a category of agriculture/non-commercial at a rate of \$250 with a second by Tom Schneider.

Annual Meeting

The location and caterer have been confirmed.

Conservationist of the Year

The staff recommended that Jamie Galyen receive this award at this year's Annual Meeting.

Friend of Conservation

Bob Steiner recommended that Ralph Cooley receive this award at this year's Annual Meeting.

Speaker

The speaker that was originally suggested was not available for our date, so the staff asked for any suggestions. Matt Branham suggested we check to see if Scott Ham was available. The staff will contact Scott. Update – Andy was able to confirm Scott Ham as our speaker for the 2016 Annual Meeting.

IASWCD Conference Jan 14-15, 2016

This year’s conference will be held at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown. Anyone that is interested in attending needs to let Kelly know before the December 2 deadline. Hotel room deadline is December 18th.

NACD Conference

The national conference will be held in Reno, Nevada January 31st – February 3, 2016. If anyone is interested in attending the deadline for early bird registration is December 18th. More discussion will be held at our next board meeting as the breakout sessions have not been announced.

National No-Till Conference

This year’s No-Till Conference will be held in Indianapolis January 6 – January 9. More information will be shared at the November board meeting.

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 Matt Branham at 8:33 pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member