

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
October 26, 2017  
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 7:06 am.

**Board Members**

Brad Ponsler  
Jerry St. John  
Tom Schneider  
Bob Steiner  
Matt Branham  
Bob Steiner

**Staff**

Andy Ertel  
Kelly Kent  
**NRCS**  
Jenny Vogel

**Student Intern**

Kameron Garlitch

**Reading of the Minute**

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the September 2017 minutes as submitted, with a second from Matt Branham.

**Financial Report**

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the August and September financial reports as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

**Correspondence**

NACD Dues – Jerry St. John made a motion to pay the \$250 dues with a second from Tom Schneider.

**Agency & Committee Reports**

Jenny Vogel – NRCS  
Written Report  
Andy Ertel – SWCD  
Written Report & update of the Tripton Park design  
Kelly Kent – SWCD  
Written Report

IDEA Conference Report – Andy shared with the board some of the items that was covered at the conference that he and Kelly attended.

## **Old Business**

### **Annual Meeting**

**Location Option** - Kelly had checked out the cost and availability of the Willow Lake Event Center. The fee for our Annual Meeting would be \$250 with them setting up and tearing down tables and providing linens. Jerry St. John made a motion to stay at the Shrine Club this year since the deposit has already been paid with a second from Tom Schneider.

**Ticket Cost** – After some discussion a motion was made by Tom Schneider to keep the ticket cost at \$12 per person with a second by Matt Branham.

**Theme** – Andy asked the board if they had any suggestions for the decorations but no one offered any. Kelly and Andy will decide.

**Awards** - These were discussed and will be announced at a later date, once recipients have been contacted.

**IASWCD Annual Conference** – Board members and staff were offered the opportunity to attend this year's conference in Indianapolis. A motion was made by Jerry St. John with a second from Matt Branham to send Brad, Kelly, Andy and Jerry to the state conference on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup> for 1 night.

**NACD Annual Conference** - Andy will be presenting at a break out session at this year's conference. Board members and staff were offered the opportunity to attend this year's National Conference in Nashville, TN. A motion was made by Matt Branham with a second from Jerry St. John to set aside \$11k to cover for all participants interested in attending. Those planning to attend are Bob, Brad, Matt, Kelly, Andy and Dan.

### **Election Nominees**

With no new landowners interested in being on the board. Brad asked Tom and Jerry if they would both serve for another 3 years. They both agreed. The Election Committee has reappointed Tom Schneider to a new term and selected Jerry St. John to run unopposed at this time for his seat.

### **Drill & Seeder Rates**

Andy asked the board to consider raising the rates on the No-till Drill and the Brillion Seeder to \$10 an acre and making the minimum fee on the Brillion \$50. After some discussion Jerry St. John made a motion to make the changes and a second from Tom Schneider. All were in favor.

### **Electronic Newsletters**

Andy asked the board to consider eliminating paper newsletters as this was an unnecessary waste of time, paper and resources. Some board members feel like there are still many that like to have a paper copy even though we could still create a newsletter and send it out electronically. Andy will do some more work to see how we could go about doing this.

**New Business**

**Shelby Co. Annual Meeting**

Andy was asked to speak at the Shelby County Annual Meeting on February 15, 2018. Jerry St. John made a motion that Andy speak at this and utilize the district vehicle for his transportation.

**Jefferson Co. Annual Meeting**

Andy offered his services to Jefferson Co. and they will let him know.

**2019 Annual Meeting Speaker**

Andy advised the board that he and Kelly had heard a speaker at the IDEA meeting named Brendan Kearns who works for DNR and does a presentation about Eagles over the Wabash. The board recommend that we check with Brendan to see if he would be willing to speak at our 2019 Annual Meeting.

**Hoosier Chapter SWCS Annual Meeting**

Bob Steiner will be attending this meeting on Thursday, November 16 @ Trafalgar. The cost is \$20 and Jerry St. John made a motion that the district cover the registration fee with a second from Matt Branham.

**District Policy**

Nothing New

**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 8:16am

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

Minutes approved by:

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Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice-Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member