

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
October 22, 2019  
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 6:37 am.

**Board Members**

Brad Ponsler

Jerry St. John

Tom Schneider

Dan Megel

**Staff**

Kelly Kent

Andy Ertel

**NRCS**

Jenny Vogel

**Reading of the Minute**

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the August 2019 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

**Financial Report**

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

**Correspondence**

***NACD Dues***

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

***Big Oaks Conservation Society Dues***

Tom Schneider made a motion to pay \$100 dues for BOCS with a second from Jerry St. John.

**Agency & Committee Reports**

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

**Old Business**

**Results from EQIP Ranking** – Jenny reported the findings.

**Conservation Building (Fairgrounds)** – We are still waiting for final confirmation of the county budget. In the mean time Andy will contact Wilson Concrete to see if they would like to put a bid in on the concrete removal and replacement.

### **New Business**

**Website Update** – Andy received an email from Rodney (our website guru) about updating the website with a fresh new look. He proposed do this for an additional \$150. After some discussion with the board they would like to know how many visits we get on the current site. This was tabled until the next board meeting.

**Annual Meeting** – The date for the Annual Meeting will be Tuesday, March 3, 2020. The board would like for the district to check on the availability of Willow Lake and let the board know. The speaker for this year's event will be Chip Ayers with the Indiana State Police talking about how the drugs are coming into our communities and what effect it is having locally. There is no charge for him to speak. The board selected Rolling Pin Catering as our caterer for this event. Kelly will book that date with them. COY/FOC nominees were discussed and the staff will review those options and bring the information back to the board for a selection at the next meeting.

**No-Till Drill Assessment** – Kelly received a quote for a new replacement for the Great Plains No-Till Drill just like we have. Andy mentioned that Ripley Co just purchased a new WSG Drill and the wheels are on the back making it not quite as wide to transport. He is planning to go over sometime to take a look at it. If it is something, we are interested in the staff will request a quote for that style.

**IDEA Representative** – Andy asked the board if they would allow him to be the S-SE Region Director for the IDEA association. After some discussion the board agreed to allow Andy to represent the S—SE Region as its IDEA Director. Kelly will be the Assistant Director.

**IDEA Conference Recap** – Andy reported that just under 100 people attend this year's conference that was hosted at Clifty Inn, Madison and that the post surveys indicated that most everyone really enjoyed the content of the conference.

**Grasslands for Gamebirds and Songbirds Phase 2** – Andy reported to the board that this phase is to include all of Jennings County. Jerry St. John made a motion to continue to support this program with a second from Dan Megel.

**State Conservationist Letter** – Kelly read a letter from Jerry Raynor, SC about the wrap up of the current PSS agreement. Staff has been hired by NRCS to take over the administrative and technical work that was in this Contribution Agreement that will end 12/31/19

**NACD Conference** – The breakout sessions were emailed and then passed out to review for deciding on whether to attend this conference in Las Vegas. Brad stated we need to assess the information we receive towards the cost of all conferences (State, National, etc.). Andy stated we should think about different conferences, like the National No-Till Conference and to think outside the box. Dan suggested sending a farmer or supervisor if one was interested.

**District Policy**

**County Travel Policy** – This will be emailed out to the supervisors for their review and then will be voted on at the next board meeting.

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**Strategic Plan**

**Woodland Resource – Invasive Species Program**

**Wildlife Resource – Gamebirds/Songbirds/Pollinators**

**Claims**

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Tom Schneider with a second by Jerry St. John at 7:57 am.

Minutes taken by Kelly Kent.

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