

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
November 22, 2016
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Matt Branham called the meeting to order at 6:01pm. Brad Ponsler arrived a short time later to take over.

Board Members

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

Staff

Andy Ertel
Kelly Kent
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Reading of the Minute

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the October 2016 minutes as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Financial Report

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the financial report as submitted, with a second from Tom Schneider.

Correspondence

- Kelly read a letter sent from Jane Hardisty congratulating the Jennings Co SWCD on being selected at the Indiana State Earth Team Volunteer Award recipient this year. The presentation will take place at the 2017 IASWCD Awards Luncheon on Tuesday, January 24, 2016 from 12-2pm at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown.

Agency & Committee Reports

Rule 5 – Andy updated the board with the Rule 5 projects of Storage Express, Streetscape, Rails to Trails and LP Investments.

Jenny Vogel – NRCS
Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD
Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD
Written Report

Old Business

Outlook Meeting

Due to Dr. Hurt's schedule we are unable to host an outlook meeting for 2016, but the staff will work with Dr. Hurt's staff to book him in Dec. 2017.

District Showcase Visit

The district staff, supervisors, and pollinator committee hosted Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist, Jordan Seger, ISDA; Kevin Baird, ISDA; Tara Wesseler, ISDA; Ray Chattin, Knox Co. Supervisor & SSCB Chairman; Kris Vance, NRCS ETV; Amy Work & Jennifer Boyle, IASWCD; & Darrell Nicholson, Area Conservationist NRCS.

Friend of Conservation

The staff and supervisors discussed potential recipients for the Annual Meeting Awards. After much discussion it was decided that the North Vernon Plain Dealer and Sun would be our Friend of Conservation for 2016 and the Jennings County School Corporation/Amber Fields would be the Conservation Education Award winner.

New Business

Legislative Event

The district received an invitation to meet with our legislators in Feb or Mar during their session at the state house. Dates discussed to attend would be Feb. 9 or 23 and those possibly interested in attending are Andy, Kelly, Dan, Matt, Brad and Jerry. Kelly will forward our dates to IASWCD and see what is available.

State off-site methods

Jenny informed the board of the new methods being used across the state to complete WEL/HEL determinations.

Women Caring for the land

Jenny spoke to the board about a newer program targeting women involved or becoming involved with agriculture. Studies have shown that women take in information differently than men and she would like to host an event in Jennings Co sometime in the spring or fall of 2017. She has put together a cost estimate and would like to the boards blessing to pursue this and other funding options. The board gave their support.

Region Meeting Input

The staff shared an email in regards to our DSS Tara asking for input on the upcoming Region Meeting in March on topics that we as a district would like to see. After some discussions Kelly stated that she would email each of the supervisors this and for them to consider it and let her know by Dec. 1 any ideas they would like to share.

County Conservation Transect

The fall transect will be Tuesday, November 29 @ 8am.

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 Tom Schneider 7:15 pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member