

Jennings County  
Soil & Water Conservation District  
January 22, 2008

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held on January 22, 2008 at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Dan Megel called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

<b><u>Supervisors</u></b>	<b><u>NRCS</u></b>	<b><u>SWCD Staff</u></b>	<b><u>Watershed Coordinator</u></b>
Brad Ponsler	Jenny Vogel	Kelly Kent	Bob Steiner
Dan Megel		<b><u>Contracted Technician</u></b>	
Jerry St. John		Denise Dailey	
Brian Belding		<b><u>RC&amp;D Representative</u></b>	
		Rob McGriff	

**Reading of the Minutes**

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the November 2007 minutes as submitted, seconded by Brad Ponsler, motion carried.

**Financial Report**

Brad Ponsler made a motion to accept the 11-28-07 to 12-31-07 and the 1-1-08 to 1-22-08 financial reports as submitted, seconded by Brian Belding, motion carried.

**Correspondence**

The Annual Conservation Tillage Workshop to be held at the Pines Evergreen Room in Seymour on February 5, 2008. Richard Beckort of the Jackson County Extension Office sent the district a letter asking for a sponsorship of this event. Jerry St. John made a motion to be an \$80 Contributing sponsor and Brian Belding seconded all were in favor.

The district received a letter from IDEM stating that the grant that was applied for to purchase a tire baler was denied.

The "Plant a Tree for you and me" flyer was passed around after some discussion the board decided that they would not join in this effort but would highly encourage tree plantings in the county.

**Agency & Committee Reports**

**Essential Services – Roger Simmons**

No report was given

**HHH RC&D – Rob McGriff**

Rob stated that since his last report he had not been at any meeting of the HHH RC&D. He did advise those present that Ken Cote with DNR would be in Jennings County on

Thursday, January 24<sup>th</sup> to tour the 4 sites in Jennings County that have Kudzu growing on them. He invited anyone who could go along with the field tour to attend.

### **Watershed – Bob Steiner**

Bob reported that he had submitted bills for Gasper's under the 319 grant and that he was currently working with Larry Kirby and Trent Low under the LARE grant.

Bob also submitted another grant to LARE in conjunction with Decatur Co. SWCD for an additional \$50,000 in funding.

### **Rule 5 Consultant – Denise Dailey**

Denise advised that she had not been very busy with contract work recently but was going to meet with Hoosier Energy on Bill Maschino's property about some concerns she had. She is also talking with Danny Bowman on some other options on entrenched roads in the county.

### **NRCS – Jenny Vogel**

Jenny submitted a written report.

### **SWCD – Kelly Kent**

Kelly submitted a written report.

### **Old Business**

#### **Noxious Weeds Update**

Covered in Rob McGriff's report

#### **Straw blower Rental**

Jerry is talking with Barber's and the new owners to try to get this situation taken care of.

#### **Annual Meeting**

The date of the Annual Meeting is Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 6pm. It will be held at the Rolling Hills Shrine Club. Decorations and programs have been ordered and received with this year's theme "St. Patrick's Day"

#### **IASWCD Annual Conference**

The annual conference was held at the Indianapolis Marriott Downtown on January 14 – 16<sup>th</sup>. Dan Megel, Jerry St. John, Jenny Vogel, & Kelly Kent attended the conference and felt that this year's format with additional training classes was much better and well attended. Jerry was the delegate for the business meeting and updated the district on some of the resolutions that passed and failed. (A copy is on file at the district's office)

#### **Cooperative Working Agreement**

Jenny Vogel spoke to the district about the option of a Cooperative Working Agreement with NRCS in which the district would help with some of the clerical and possibly technical support of NRCS programs with the option of some reimbursement from

NRCS. As more details are made available the board will be informed. At this time the board decided to go forward with the Cooperative Working Agreement.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Spring Tree Sale**

The district will again host a tree sale and plans are being made to use the same vendor, Woody Warehouse, for the supply of trees.

### **Annual Meeting Sponsor List**

The list of past contributors of items for the basket giveaway at the Annual Meeting was passed out with the board members each taking a group to follow up with donations.

### **Annual Plan of Work**

Kelly broke down the Business Plan to an Annual Plan of Work worksheet to go over. The board decided to table this so that each could review it.

### **New Employee**

The board announced the appointment of Bob Steiner to fill the Executive Director/Clearing House Coordinator for the district. Bob will assume these duties on January 23, 2008 and working on a part-time basis until his 319 Grant position is completed.

### **Status of CWI Grants Applied For**

The SSCB and ISDA have developed two different 2008 CWI grant opportunities for Indiana Soil and Water Conservation Districts. They are the Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant (CMIG), and the Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant. The CMIG is a \$2000 grant. This was submitted and announced that we did receive the grant.

The Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant application is due by February 1, 2008. A copy of the grant application was given to those present and each person was asked to take a look at the application and let Kelly know by the 29<sup>th</sup> of January if any changes needed to be made.

### **Designated Depository**

A motion was made by Brad Ponsler to continue with National City Bank as the district's bank and that Kelly Kent remain the treasurer on this account. Brian Belding seconded the motion.

### **LARE Grant**

Bob Steiner along with the Decatur Co. SWCD submitted a grant request of \$50,000 for this.

### **District Computer**

The district is in need of purchasing a new computer and monitor for the Administrative Assistant. The current computer is approximately 6 – 7 years old and needs to be updated. Bob Steiner has researched the options and found an HP DC770 w/a 19" Flat

Panel monitor from Government Acquisitions and, if purchased from them, NRCS IT specialist will set-up and maintain the computer. The approximate cost will be \$1050. Jerry St. John made a motion to make the purchase and Brian Belding seconded the motion with all in favor.

**Meeting Dates and Times**

The monthly board meeting dates and times was passed out to all in attendance. Note the months of January, February, March, and November meeting times will be at 6pm and the remaining meetings will be at 7pm.

**Web Soil Survey Training**

Kelly asked the board to allow her to attend the WSS training at the Harrison Co. High School on Saturday, January 26, 2008. The board agreed to send her to the training.

**Conservation Plans**

Phyllis Buhrke– T 2202 Plan was signed

**Claims** – Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

**Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm

*Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant*

*Minutes approved by:*

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*Chairman*

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*Vice-Chairman*

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*Board Member*

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*Board Member*

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*Board Member*

Annual Meeting – February 26, 2008 @ 6:00pm –Rolling Hills Shrine Club  
Next scheduled board meeting – March 25, 2008 @ 6:00pm  
USDA Service Center Conference Center