

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
January 26, 2010  
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held on January 26, 2010 at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Chairman Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:02pm

Supervisors

Brad Ponsler  
Jerry St. John  
Dan Megel  
Brian Belding  
Nathan Burbrink

SWCD Staff

Bob Steiner  
NRCS  
Jenny Vogel

Contracted Technician

Denise Dailey

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the November 2009 minutes as submitted, with a second from Brian Belding.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the Nov. 25 to Dec. 31 and Jan. 1 to Jan. 26, financial reports as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

Correspondence

The following dues/sponsorships /workshop fees were proposed to the SWCD board with all being approved unanimously. NAC D Dues \$775, Historic Hoosier Hills \$250, Rural-Urban Dinner \$250, Jennings County Chamber of Commerce \$65, Crop Production Workshop \$80.

Historic Hoosier Hills requested that the board nominate someone to be a representative on their board. Jerry St. John made a motion to re-seat Rob McGriff with a second from Dan Megel, all in favor.

NRCS rent process was discussed. They will be utilizing the Cooperative Agreement for rent reduction based on work performed by SWCD staff to assist NRCS.

Agency & Committee Reports

Essential Services

No report given. No meetings held.

HHH RC&D

No report given.

Rule 5 Consultant – Denise Dailey

Denise reported that she is working with MUTC on another project involving 12.65 acres and that will be quite an extensive project. Mr. Ebbing is still out of compliance with Rule 5 and pictures have been submitted to IDEM showing the gravel added to the job site. This situation is currently being handled by IDEM.

## Staff Reports

### Bob Steiner

Written report submitted.

### Kelly Kent

Written report submitted.

### NRCS - Jenny Vogel

Written report submitted.

## Old Business

### Outlook Meeting

The outlook meeting was attended by 72+/- at the Jennings County Library on Dec. 9<sup>th</sup>. Most in attendance were pleased with the program and being able to get PARP credits. Brad thanked everyone for their work on making this meeting a huge success.

### 2010 CWI Grant

We have received confirmation that the funding for the grant proposal we submitted will now be released along with the matching \$10k that we receive annually from the state.

### County Fair

There has been some discussion as to what our plans are for the county fair. Someone from our board will try to attend an upcoming fair board meeting to confirm what they have planned for our annual tractor parade.

## New Business

### Shop Meetings

The shop meetings for 2010 have been planned for Feb. 3<sup>rd</sup> at Marion Twp. Community Center at 8:30 AM, Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> at Eddie Maschino's 10:30 AM, Feb. 8<sup>th</sup> at Walter Low's 8:30 AM, then Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at George Corya's at 8:30 AM. The Indiana Soybean Alliance will be a major sponsor of these meetings. They are designed to get information out to landowners about Federal, State, & Local programs available to them.

### Hay/Forage Samples

The SWCD has been approached about setting up a cost-share program, similar to our soil testing, for hay/forage sampling. There was some discussion on this and we opted to take \$1000.00 of the money that had been set aside for the soil sample cost-share and create a hay/forage cost-share program. Brian Belding made a motion to set aside \$1000 for this project with Nathan Burbrink making the second. A motion to pay \$6 cost-share per sample was made by Nathan Burbrink with a second from Dan Megel.

### Educator of The Year

Dan Megel made a motion to recognize Mrs. Connie Anderson as the district's Educator of the Year with a second from Jerry St. John. Kelly will send out a letter to Mrs. Anderson and the principal, Teresa Helton at Scipio Elementary, to let them know she is the recipient of this award.

### Community Foundation Report

Brad spoke to the board about the opportunities that the Jennings County Community Foundation had for SWCD's. Jerry St. John had attended a break out session at this year's IASWCD and was able to learn about the foundations pass-through account to help with the district's sponsorship for meals and other activities that we are not allowed to pay for. All supervisors were in agreement that this would be a great opportunity for our district and agreed that to have Bob speak with our Community Foundation about getting this set up.

### IASWCD Delegate Update

Jerry St. John reported that the IASWCD Business meeting did vote to pass the 10 acre rule change. This would mean that you no longer have to own a minimum of 10 acres to become a SWCD supervisor. However, since this vote was so late in the legislative session it will most likely not be heard this year and will have to wait until 2011 before it could pass. Term limits were discussed but did not pass.

### Assignment of Annual Meeting Duties

Kelly gave the board members a copy of the tentative Annual Meeting agenda with job duties listed. It was also mentioned that it would be nice to include our local FFA Chapter to the annual meeting to assist with supervisor elections, set-up, tear down, etc. Brad Ponsler will check with Brad Briggs to see if they would be interested in this opportunity.

### Other New Business

Brad & Bob ask that the board come up with names to nominate for the Rural-Urban Dinner Community Service Award. All nominations should be brought to the SWCD meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Nominations can be submitted on individual basis also.

Jerry brought up the possibility of working with Mossy Oak and/or Imperial White Tail about getting the word out about conservation districts and the work they do with field borders, etc. via TV commercials and magazine advertisements. He asked the board if they thought it would be a good idea and they agreed it would be. He had spoke to Ray McCormick and they would like to bring it up at the NACD conference next week.

Brad passed out an info sheet on the issues that Farm Bureau is working on with our legislators.

### Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

### Adjournment

The next meeting of the Jennings County SWCD Board will be held at the USDA Service Center on Tuesday, February 23, 2010 at 6:00 PM.