

Jennings County
Soil & Water Conservation District
March 25, 2008

Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held on March 28, 2008 at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Dan Megel called the meeting to order at 6:05 PM.

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

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the January 2008 minutes as submitted, seconded by Brian Belding, motion carried.

Financial Report

Brad Ponsler made a motion to accept the 1-23-08 to 2-25-08 and the 2-26-08 to 3-25-08 financial reports as submitted, seconded by Jerry St. John, motion carried.

Correspondence

Dan Megel read a letter sent to the district from Jane Hardisty, State Conservationist, thanking the district for submitting a proposal for a contribution agreement for FY2008.

Agency & Committee Reports

Essential Services – Roger Simmons

No report was given

HHH RC&D – Rob McGriff

Rob reported that he had attended the HHH RC&D Annual Meeting the evening before and passed around the written annual report that they shared. He stated that the RC&D is quite concerned with how they will be funded in the future and are waiting to see what the Farm Bill brings.

Watershed – Bob Steiner

Written report was submitted

Rule 5 Consultant – Denise Dailey

Denise advised that she had not been very busy with contract work this month.

NRCS – Jenny Vogel

Jenny submitted a written report.

SWCD – Kelly Kent

Kelly submitted a written report.

Old Business

Noxious Weeds Update

Rob, Bob, & Ken Cote, visited the 5 Kudzu sites in Jennings County and are working with the landowners and occupiers to get their permission to spray the Kudzu sometime in August. 4 out of 5 have signed the paperwork and they are continuing to work with the remaining one to come to some agreement.

Straw blower Rental

Jerry is continuing to talk with Barber's to try to get this situation taken care of.

Annual Meeting

Overall the meeting went well and we had 101 in attendance.

CWI Grants

The Jennings County SWCD was awarded 2 grants recently. The Conservation Marketing Initiative Grant for \$2000.00 and the Sediment and Nutrient Management Grant for \$10000.00. The district staff is working on programs such as soil testing and planning field days to utilize this additional funding.

Cooperative Working Agreement

We received an agreement from NRCS and Dan signed the agreement and Kelly will mail that in.

NEW BUSINESS

Elect Officers

Jerry St. John nominated Brad Ponsler for Chairman, with Roger Simmons seconding the motion and all were in favor. Roger Simmons nominated Dan Megel for Vice-Chairman, with Jerry St. John seconding the motion and all were in favor. Dan Megel made a motion to put Kelly Kent in as Secretary/Treasurer all were in favor.

2008 NACD Dues

A statement was received for the 2008 NACD Dues. The board chose to continue our support with a Silver Level membership at \$775 per year.

Spring Tree Sale

The district will again host a tree sale. The flyers have been created and will be taken to various businesses to help with advertising it.

Strawblower Contract with New Owners

Since Barber Tool Rental has been sold the district will come up with a new contract to be signed by the new owners so that we may continue to maintain the relationship for the purpose of renting the strawblower.

Rule 5 Fee

Denise advised the board that Scott Co. is now charging a fee to the developer for the contracted technician. After some discussion it was decided that the SWCD board needs to speak to the County Commissioners about this before implementing any fees.

Audit Books

Dan Megel and Brad Ponsler will audit the 2007 financial records.

Leadership Institute

Laura Fribley passed out a flyer giving information about the upcoming Leadership Institute and encouraging any and all to attend if possible this year.

CWI

Laura congratulated the district on receiving the 2 new grants and briefly described the events that others in our area were hosting with the grants they received and encouraged us to work with them also.

Training Incentive

Laura advised the board that the guidelines for the Training Incentive were going to change for this next year and encouraged them to take training and submit the receipts for the training incentive reimbursement

2008 Plan of Work

The office staff and Jenny Vogel will work on this and submit to the board at the next meeting.

No-Till Drills & Brillion Seeder Bill

A bill was received from Warren Malcomb for repair and maintenance on the drills for \$808.56. The board agreed to the charge and advised Kelly to go on and pay it.

Soil Testing Grant

Brad, Bob, & Kelly had met last week to discuss some suggestions on how to qualify and implement the funds for the Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Grant. A rough draft of suggestions was passed out and discussion was held with most of the previous recommendations being implemented along with a few changes. Brad, Bob, Kelly & Jenny will meet again next week to finalize the guidelines. 2 18" soil probes will be purchased at a cost of \$34 each and these will be loaned out to landowners/producers to take soil samples.

Office Furniture

The staff asked the board if new office furniture could be purchased. The staff has worked very hard on cleaning out and reorganizing the office and would like to present a professional updated image. In order to do this they would like to purchase new furniture. Kelly and Bob have done some research and found modular desks and accessories from Bush Furniture at a cost of \$2707 with free shipping and a 10 year warranty. Jerry St. John made a motion to go ahead and purchase the furniture with Roger Simmons seconding the motion. All were in favor.

Conservation Plans

Brad Armand– T 1444 Plan was signed
David Tuttle – T 1263
Charles David Fox – T 284
Warren Malcomb – T 437

Claims – Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant
Minutes approved by:

	_____	_____
	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Vice-Chairman</i>
_____	_____	_____
<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Board Member</i>	<i>Board Member</i>

Next scheduled board meeting – April 22, 2008 @ 7:00pm
USDA Service Center Conference Center