

**Jennings County
Soil & Water Conservation District
August 25, 2009
August Board Minutes**

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held on August 25, 2009 at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Chairman Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 7:08 PM.

Supervisors

Brad Ponsler
Jerry St. John
Dan Megel
Nathan Burbrink

SWCD Staff

Kelly Kent
NRCS
Jenny Vogel
District Forester
Rob McGriff

Watershed Coordinator

Bob Steiner

Contracted Technician

Denise Dailey

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the June 2009 minutes as submitted, seconded by Dan Megel, motion carried.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the July & August financial report as submitted, seconded by Jerry St. John, motion carried.

Correspondence

Thank you's from 4-H award winners were read. The HHH RC&D Annual report was passed around.

Agency & Committee Reports

Essential Services

Bob Steiner – No Updates due to no meetings

HHH RC&D

Rob updated the district with information about the upcoming Woodland Committee's Field Day on October 17th at the Richard Jones property in southern Jennings County. He thanked the district for sponsoring the portable toilet for that day.

Watershed-Bob Steiner

Written report was submitted

Rule 5 Consultant – Denise Dailey

Written report was submitted

Staff-Kelly Kent

Written report was submitted

NRCS – Jenny Vogel

Written report was submitted.

Old Business

Fair Recap

There was some discussion about the recent fair and what went well, any improvements needed and next years plan. We discussed checking with the fair board about changing the night of the Antique Tractor Parade due to conflicts with board members and staff being able to help due to the cattle show going on at the same time. Kelly will check with the fair board to find out meeting dates and get back with the SWCD board.

2010 Budget Meeting

Jerry St. John and Bob Steiner attended the county budget hearing on August 17th and reported back that the county council appreciated the fact that the district was not asking for any increases in funding for 2010 due to the staff being able to keep costs down.

Mileage Rate

After being told by the SBOA that the district could set its own mileage rate, the board discussed following the current federal mileage rate of \$.55 per mile beginning Jan. 1, 2009. Dan Megel made a motion to follow the federal rate with a second by Nathan Burbrink. All were in favor.

Foundation Fund

Woody Warehouse has been putting money into the SWCD Foundation fund in our name for each tree we bought from them for our tree sale. The Foundation is ceasing operation and will be sending the remaining funds from this to each district. The Jennings County SWCD portion is \$49 and Dan Megel made a motion to just deposit the funds into our general account with a second by Jerry St. John. All were in favor.

Pond Clinic

The pond clinic held recently at the Mike & Linda Biehle farm was quite successful. Almost 100 people attended. Thank you notes will be sent to the Biehle's, Tom Schneider, and the other speakers.

New Business

Community Foundation Trip to Loogootee

Bob reported to the board that he, along with Brad Ponsler and members of the local Community Foundation, will be meeting with members of the Knox County SWCD and their Community Foundation on Sept. 14th to discuss possible programs/options for the Jennings County Community Foundation.

Tillage Transect Results

The recent tillage transect for the county was conducted by Jenny Vogel, Bob Steiner, & Tom Martin. It showed an increase in both no-till corn and no-till soybean planting. The report is available at the SWCD office.

ECAP Complete

The funds that the SWCD applied for to help offset cost of repairs due to the June 2008 floods have been paid out to area landowners. The total funds paid to Jennings County landowners was \$27,986.51.

Recycle Bags

The staff presented the board with options for purchasing recycling bags to give out at future meetings, workshops, etc. After hearing all the options and pricing, Dan Megel made a motion to purchase 800 bags with a second by Nathan Burbrink. All were in favor.

Tree Sales

The district is continuing the Fall Tree Sale with the deadline to purchase being Sept. 14th.

Geo-Textile

Graham Creek Elementary and Ben Maschino are in the process of redoing the trails through the outdoor lab at the school and approached Bob Steiner about donating some Geo-Textile to the project. Dan Megel made a motion that the SWCD would cover ½ of the cost for a roll of geo-textile with the school being responsible for the remaining ½ of the cost.

Award Deadlines

The deadline for the Friend of Conservation and Conservation Farmer of the Year are due by September 1, 2009. The board was asked to come up with nominees with the deadline so near the SWCD board opted to nominate the Muscatatuck Chapter of Quail Unlimited as a Friend of Conservation. Kelly will get information from this group to complete the application by the deadline.

Cooperative Working Agreement

NRCS has mailed this to the district and the SWCD will continue with the cooperative working agreement.

Contribution Agreement

The staff completed the Administrative Service application for a contribution agreement with NRCS. At this time we are waiting to see if the application was accepted.

Leadership Institute – Nashville

The third workshop on board development in this series is being presented at Nashville on Sept 18th & 19th. Brad spoke to the board about this and encouraged any of them to participate.

Rent

The rent for office space for 2009 was discussed and payment made.

Grassland Management Workshop

The grassland management workshop with Nate Yazel will be held at the Malcomb Decamp farm on September 3rd at 11 AM and snacks will be furnished by the district. The plan is to show a burndown of warm season grasses along with other conservation practice options.

Pond Info-Schneider Feed & Seed

Tom Schneider notified the district that on Thursday, September 9th from 1 to 5 PM, he will have a representative from one of his vendors at the feed mill to discuss pond weed management in further detail on a one on one basis.

Wildlife Management Workshop

Purdue is hosting a workshop on wildlife management at SEPAC on Oct. 19th & 20th and Bob Steiner would like to take this training. Dan Megel made a motion to pay the \$85 registration fee to send Bob with a second made by Jerry St. John. All were in favor.

Outlook Meeting

The date for the outlook meeting has been set for Dec. 9th. Kelly will check the availability of the Library for this meeting. Details will follow about the agenda and times.

Tile Probe

Denise would like to have a tile probe to use when going out to address drainage issues. Kelly will check with area businesses and get back with the board on costs.

Additional New Business to Ponder

Brad Ponsler has been asked by Farm Bureau to consider forming a drainage board in our county. Brad asked the board to consider this and bring any thoughts back to the next meeting.

Conservation Plans

There were 7 plans signed by Bob Steiner since the last meeting.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18 PM

The next meeting of the Jennings County SWCD Board will be held at the USDA Service Center on Tuesday, September 22, 2009 at 7:00pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member