

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
August 24, 2010
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held on August 24, 2010 at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Chairman Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Supervisors

Brad Ponsler
Dan Megel
Nathan Burbrink
Jerry St. John

Staff

Kelly Kent
Bob Steiner
Contracted Technician
Denise Dailey

NRCS

Jenny Vogel
HHH RC&D Rep
Rob McGriff

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the June 2010 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the June 23 to August 24 financial report as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.

Correspondence

Thank you's were received from Emily Boyd, Tyler Boswell, Anna McNulty, Laura Hauersperger, Bobby Deaton, & Anthony Yoder for the 4-H trophy sponsorships. Also a thank you from the family of Christena Biehle was received.

Agency & Committee Reports

Essential Services

Bob reported that they had a rezone request from St. Mary's to be zoned as Institutional.

HHH RC&D

Rob McGriff reported that the Woodland Committee's kickoff would be held at the Pines in Seymour on Sept. 6th celebrating the U.S. Forest Service in Indiana for 75 years.

Rule 5 Consultant – Denise Dailey

Denise reported there is ongoing work with Hayden Pike & JNRU. She is working with Jennings Water on the airport to MUTC expansion, with O'Mara on general erosion control, MUTC is installing a subway system and they had an inspection from the EPA Region 5.

Staff Reports

Bob Steiner

Written report submitted.

Jenny Vogel

Written report submitted.

Kelly Kent

Written report submitted.

Old Business

Fair Update

All reported that everything seem to go well with our Antique Tractor display. Some commented that they heard complaints about not having the tractor parade so this will be addressed prior to next year's fair. The NV Plain Dealer reported that the fair board was planning on putting in a food court where the tractors were this year but the SWCD has not been notified. Some of the staff and board members will try to attend a fair board meeting to see what our status will be for next year's fair.

2011 Budget

Jerry St. John reported that he met with the county council and they assured him that everything looked in line with the budget submitted. They will meet later to decide the 2011 budget.

Rain Barrels

Bob & Kelly spoke to the board about the program the SWCD has set up with Upcycle products to offer Rain Barrels and Composters for sale. The district has already sold 2 large and 1 small composter. They will also work with the Master Gardeners to promote these items.

2010 CWI Grant Update

Kelly reported that we have submitted the paperwork to INDOT but received a request for more information. She will check with Travis Mankin at the Seymour post to help with filling out the forms correctly. At this time the signs have not been ordered.

Bob reported that we have 4 landowners signed up to take advantage of the cost-share program of flying on cover crops. The original grant was for \$3000, we had agreed to set up the program allowing each landowner to receive \$6/acre up to 150 acres which will be at a cost of \$3600. Jerry St. John made a motion for the SWCD to supplement the original grant the extra \$600 so that we could provide this program to those who have signed up. A second was made by Dan Megel and all were in favor.

New Business

IASWCD State Conference

The dates for the 2011 conference will be January 10-12. All staff and supervisors are encouraged to attend. Brad Ponsler passed out a draft copy of the agenda for the conference.

Conference Sponsors

Brad notified the board that the IASWCD is seeking sponsors for this year's conference if anyone has contacts with corporate sponsors please let him know.

Annual Meeting

The board discussed the planning for the upcoming Annual Meeting. At this time it has been decided that we will set the date for Tuesday, March 1, at 6pm with a back up date of Tuesday, March 15th. Kelly will check with the Shrine Club to see if it is available and with Rolling Pin Catering. The board and staff are to come up with ideas for a speaker/entertainment.

Election Committee

The board selected Dan Megel as the chairman with Jerry St. John & Nathan Burbrink on the committee. They are tasked with finding someone to run against Brad Ponsler for his seat on the SWCD board.

Backyard Conservation Workshop

The workshop has been set for Friday, October 1st, at Stream Cliff Herb Farm with a start time of 9:30 am and ending with lunch at 12:30 pm. The workshop will cover rain gardens, rain barrels, & composting. The participant cost will be \$10 per person and Dan Megel made a motion to pay the additional cost of the room rental with a second by Nathan Burbrink. The SWCD will offer at a discounted rate the rain barrels at \$65 and composters at \$130 for those in attendance. A motion was made by Nathan Burbrink with a second by Dan Megel to make this special offer.

Outlook Meeting

This year's Outlook Meeting will be held at the Jennings Co. Public Library December 7th with a start time of 9:30 am. This year's speaker will be Corrine Alexander from Purdue University. PARP credits will be made available. Lunch will be soup and sub's from Subway.

2011 CWI Application

Bob told the board that at this time they had not confirmed any money available for the CWI grants this year but if they did receive the funds that the application would be a quick turnaround so we would need to have a preliminary plan in place. The board and staff discussed submitting the application to include additional funding for the flying on of cover crops. There is also a possibility of an additional \$1000 per county if there are 2 or more counties working together on a sediment and nutrient reduction project. The board encouraged the staff to work with the surrounding counties as needed to accomplish this goal.

LARE Funding

The office has been notified that the LARE Funding has been discontinued.

Conservation Plans

Bob signed plans as needed.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Brad Ponsler at 8:45 pm.

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant