

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District  
September 27, 2011  
Board Minutes

The regular monthly meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held on September 27, 2011 at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Chairman Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 7 PM.

**Supervisors**

Brad Ponsler      Nathan Burbrink  
Dan Megel        Brian Belding

**Staff**

Bob Steiner      Jenny Vogel

**NRCS**

**Associate Supervisors**

Rob McGriff

The minutes of the August, 2011 meeting were read and approved on a motion by Dan Megel, seconded by Brian Belding.

The financial report was reviewed and approved on a motion by Brian Belding, seconded by Dan Megel.

Rob McGriff reported on a recent meeting of the Historic Hoosier Hills Executive Council. He said that despite lack of federal funding the organization is functioning well with a variety of income sources and project areas. He says they are looking to help coordinate multi-county efforts such as watershed projects or other needed projects in the area. Rob also discussed the Southern Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area which covers the southern third of Indiana. He stated that they have some funds to help eradicate invasive species. He mentioned two areas in Jennings County where ailanthus (tree of heaven) is growing and a discussion was held as to possible control measures on those areas. The SWCD will look into possibly contacting landowners and offering assistance on these or other areas where invasive species are a problem. Bob Steiner reported that the kudzu patches in the county have been treated again this year by the IDNR.

Bob Steiner reported that the Essential Services Committee met in September with the only item of business being a rezoning request by Jennings Villa. He submitted written highlights of his activities and also discussed the On-Farm Network activities which include taking stalk samples for nitrogen testing on three farms. He also discussed the current CWI grant which provided \$6,000 for incentive payments for cover crops. The intent had been to provide \$10 per acre for 600 acres of cover crops, however , applications have been received for about 1000 acres. On a motion by Dan Megel, second by Brian Belding, it was decided to divide the \$6,000 by the total acres of applications and pay a lesser amount per acre.

Written reports of activities were submitted by Kelly Kent and Jenny Vogel.

## **Old Business**

Brad Ponsler reported on the Leadership Institute which he and Kelly Kent recently attended. He spoke highly of the event and handed out material showing some of the highlights.

The recent county budget process was discussed. Discussion was held about the possibility of having a county officials tour to discuss and show what the SWCD provides for the county.

Discussion was held about getting the new roadside signs put up. Dan and Brad offered to help when needed.

## **New Business**

Discussion was held on the upcoming board election. Jerry St. John and Nathan Burbrink's terms as appointed and elected supervisors will expire next year. The other three board members will serve as an election committee to obtain candidates for the election and appointment.

Brad provided a summary of the southeast regional meeting held on September 22 and attended by Brad Ponsler, Kelly Kent, Bob Steiner, and Jenny Vogel. The meeting provided updates from NRCS, ISDA, and IASWCD.

Planning for the annual meeting was started. It will be held on March 6, 2012 at the Shrine Club with catering by the Rolling Pin. Members were asked to come up with suggestions for a speaker.

The Outlook meeting scheduled for December 8 was also discussed. It will be held at the library at 9 AM. Chris Hurt is confirmed as speaker and a more complete agenda will be developed soon.

Discussion was held about the need to update the SWCD Business Plan. It was developed in 2006 as a five year plan. It was suggested that a questionnaire be developed to send out with a newsletter and also to be available at the Outlook meeting to get input on needs of the county. On a motion by Nathan Burbrink and a second by Brian Belding it was decided to work on developing a revised business plan with the goal to have it ready to present at the Annual Meeting in March.

Claims were approved and signed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PM.

Minutes recorded by Bob Steiner, Executive Director