

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District

August 25, 2025

Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the USDA Service Center Conference Room. Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 6:31AM.

Board Members:

Brad Ponsler
Alex Helms
Matt Branham
Kevin Morin
Kameron Garlitch (Absent)

Staff:

Becca McClellan
Maddie Suhre
Andy Ertel (Absent)

Associates:

Jimmi Berkey

Partners:

Tim Schwipps (Absent)

Reading of the Minutes:

Matt Branham made a motion to accept the June Minutes as written, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

Financial Report:

Alex Helms made a motion to accept the Financial Reports as written, with a second by Kevin Morin. All in favor.

Correspondence:

4-H Thank You- The office received a Thank You card from the Jennings County 4-H program.

Ongoing/Old Business:

SEPAC- Becca and Maddie will attend the August 26th SEPAC Field Day and set up a table to promote the Vernon Fork Watershed Cost-Share Program and Clean Water Indiana Cost-Share Program. Maddie will call Joel Wahlman and find out how to be a sponsor for this event.

CWI Update- We have received more applications this month, and we have reached our goal of two HUAPs. We have not had any participants complete their practices and turn in receipts for reimbursement yet, but we should start seeing that in September/October. Continue to share information about this program.

Watershed Update- Andy Ertel and Heather Wirth are working hard to complete the second grant. We are waiting for a few more letters of support and Andy or Heather will submit the grant application before the deadline. A rough draft was passed around for review.

Photo Frames- Photo Frame samples were passed around to see if these frames will be better for the picture gallery in the conservation building. The pricing is as follows: 8"X10" (\$30.99/frame) 48 qty. for \$1,456.53. 8.5"X11" (\$23.99/frame) 9 qty. for \$215.91. 13"X19" (\$32.99/frame) 48 qty. for \$1,583.52. Shipping costs \$244.20. Total \$3,500.16. Alex Helms made a motion to purchase photo frames with, a second from Kevin Morin. All were in favor. Becca also received pricing on name plates for the two

hornets' nets, updated snake boxes, and mural they would be around \$10.00 each. Matt Branham made a motion to purchase name plates with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

Budget Hearing: The 2026 Budget Hearing is scheduled for August 27th at 2:15PM. Alex will attend with Becca.

New Business:

Summer Summits- The Summer Summit/Region Meeting will be September 10th at Cornucopia Farms. An email was sent out earlier in the month.

IASWCD Conservation Farm Tour- The IASWCD Conservation Farm Tour will be held at Hackman Family Farm on September 18th.

Soil Health Demonstration Field- This year we are doing a mix of nine species: barley, winter cereal rye, oats (spring & black), crimson clover, rapeseed, turnips/pasja, oil seed radish, kale, and balansa clover. Matt has ordered seed.

2026 Resolutions- Resolutions are due September 8th. No resolutions to submit.

Annual Meeting- Brad is up for reelection, the board will be appointing Brad for Supervisor. Several ideas were discussed and the idea of a "Conservation Expo" was well received. Potential dates are February 21st, February 28th, or March 7th. We will revisit this topic at the September Board Meeting.

Staff/Partner Reports:

Tim Schwipps – District Conservationist – NRCS
Written Report

Becca McClellan- SWCD
Written Report

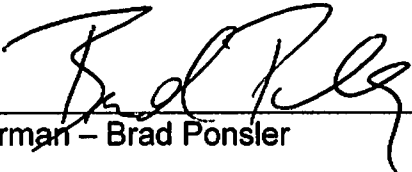
Madelyn Suhre- SWCD
Written Report

District Policy: Past due invoices, failure to pay, and future rentals were discussed. A new policy will be drafted and signed.

Claims: Maddie prepared a packet including a Financial Report and Board Meeting Minutes needing reviewed and signed by the Board Members.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:47AM.

Minutes taken by: Madelyn Suhre



Chairman – Brad Ponsler



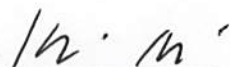
Vice Chairman – Matt Branham



Member – Kameron
Garlitch



Member – Alex
Helms



Member- Kevin Morin