

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
June 22, 2026
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 6:30AM.

Board Members:

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

Staff:

Becca McClellan
Maddie Suhre
Andy Ertel (Absent)

Associates:

Jimmi Berkey (Absent)

Partners:

Matt Jarvis (NRCS) (Absent)
Tom Schneider (Guest)
Will Yoder (ISDA)

Reading of the Minutes:

Alex Helms made a motion to accept the May 2026 Minutes as written, with a second by Matt Branham. All in favor.

Financial Report:

Kameron Garlitch made a motion to accept the Financial Report as written, with a second by Alex Helms. All in favor.

Correspondence:

Ongoing/Old Business:

Pond Clinic- Becca spoke with Tom Schneider on the phone regarding hosting a pond clinic. This would include the topics of Algae and Aquatic Plant Management, Predator Control- from a legal standpoint, Fish Stocking, and New Pond Construction. A tentative date is set for August 27, 2026.

CWI Grant Application Ideas- More BMPs were discussed such as electric fencing, access roads, and solar powered watering systems. Jenny Rowland is coming this week to discuss more BMPs options for our next grant. Becca will provide an update at the next board meeting.

New Business:

2027 Budget- A copy of the 2027 budget was passed around to the board for review. Matt Branham made a motion to move forward with the proposed budget with a second from Kameron Garlitch.

Wetland Exhibit- Becca and Maddie removed the sand from wetland exhibit, due to wild cats using it as a litter box. Becca asked for recommendations to better winterize the Conservation Building to prevent this from happening again. The suggestion was made to remove the sliding doors and putting in garage doors and adding a man door to the building. Becca will get quotes from a few contractors.

IDEA Fall Conference- The 2026 IDEA Fall Conference "Conservation in the Kettle Lakes" is going to be located at Pokagon State Park and will take place October 7-9, 2026. The registration fee is \$150.00 per person and the hotel stay for two people is \$521.96. Matt Branham made a motion to approve Becca and Maddie to attend the Fall Conference, with a second from Alex Helms. All in favor.

Health Balance Today; Stronger Generations Tomorrow Training- Is a one-day training on August 20, 2026 in Plainfield, IN hosted by IDEA . Alex Helms made a motion to approve Becca and Maddie to attend this training, with a second from Kameron Garlitch. All in favor.

NCDEA Mid-Year Training Conference- The NCDEA Mid-Year Training Conference is taking place in Gulf Shores, Alabama September 1-2, 2026. The registration cost is \$150.00 per person. Becca asked the board if she could attend this training. She would prefer to drive. Matt suggested looking into renting a vehicle vs. using the District truck. Alex Helms made a motion to approve Becca traveling and attending this conference, with a second from Kameron Garlitch. All in favor.

A&L Price Increase- A&L Great Lakes Laboratories will be increasing their prices. Matt Branham made a motion to keep the soil sample pricing the same , with a second from Alex Helms. All in favor.

Staff/Partner Reports:

Matt Jarvis- NRCS

Verbal Report

Becca McClellan- SWCD

Written Report

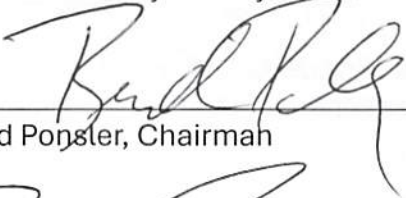
Madelyn Suhre- SWCD

Written Report

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

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:33AM.

Minutes taken by: Madelyn Suhre



Brad Ponsler, Chairman



Matt Branham, Vice Chairman



Kevin Morin, Member



Kameron Garlitch, Member



Alex Helms, Member