

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
February 26, 2013
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Chairman Brad Ponsler called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

Supervisors

Brad Ponsler
Nathan Burbrink
Jerry St. John
Dan Megel

Staff

Kelly Kent
Bob Steiner
Guest
Beth Steiner

NRCS

Jenny Vogel
Contracted Technician
Denise Dailey

Reading of the Minutes

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the January 2013 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Financial Report

Dan Megel made a motion to accept the January 23, 2013-February 26, 2013 financial report as submitted, with a second from Jerry St. John.
Kelly also presented the board with a financial status showing what funds are obligated.

Correspondence

Historic Hoosier Hills RC&D invoice for 2013 dues of \$250. Dan Megel made a motion to pay the dues with a second from Jerry St. John.

Fair Board

Beth Steiner representing the Jennings County Fair Board was attending the meeting to let the district know that they plan to have the Antique Tractor display again this year but they would like for them to be moved to just east of the community building. There was concern about how wet that area might be but Beth stated that is not a problem. Other concerns brought up was if we still needed the fencing, lighting, and then the parade route. Also, Beth stated the fair board booked a company for the week of the fair that brings in an 8'x24' fishing tank for kids to learn to fish. The fair board felt like this would be an opportunity for the district to promote conservation. The cost for a full day is \$840 but a motion was made by Dan Megel to host the educational workshop for a half day at \$420 with a second from Nathan Burbrink.

Agency & Committee Reports

Essential Services

Bob reported that rezoning request was submitted by Harold Altepeter to comply with the county ordinance. The new pipeline needed a new rezoning request for a shutoff valve. Tom Gosman submitted rezoning request for offices on State Street and Rick McFall representing the Bear Creek Baptist Church submitted a request to rezone 3 acres for expanding their cemetery.

Bob also reported that with the county wide comprehensive plan that the airport will have notification on building heights prior to the work beginning. They have a GIS overlay for the county map to check for any interference before the work begins.

HHH RC&D

No report from current representative Rob McGriff. A few meetings back Rob asked the board to appoint a new representative from the SWCD. Dan Megel made a motion to nominate Don Biehle with a second from Nathan Burbrink. Bob Steiner said he would be the representative if Don would not. After the meeting Bob contacted Don and he declined so Bob Steiner will be the new representative to the HHH RC&D.

Rule 5 Consultant – Denise Dailey

Denise reported that she had questioned the other districts that the new pipeline would be going through to see if any of them were handling the Rule 5. They reported they were not so she contacted Randy Braun with IDEM and he is to follow up with the company putting the pipeline in.

Staff Reports

Bob Steiner

Written report submitted.

Jenny Vogel

Written report submitted. Jenny also shared highlights for NRCS including the EQIP Drought Recovery Initiative that Jennings County falls under as a D3 county. She also covered the policy in place should the USDA office have closures due to inclement weather. It was decided that the SWCD would follow the county plan based on sheriff's travel advisory.

Kelly Kent

Written report submitted.

Old Business

Annual Meeting Final Preparations

Final preparations have been made for the Annual Meeting. Matt Branham has agreed to run for Supervisor. He will be nominated from the floor during the meeting.

Shop Meeting Final Preparations

The meetings will be held on March 18 & 19th at Eddie Maschino's and Nelson Ponsler's. The SWCD is working to finalize sponsors for these events.

Rural Urban Dinner

The dinner will be held at the Shrine Club on March 20th at 6 PM. Brad, Bob, & Kelly will be attending.

Soil Health Campaign Training for Farmers

A brochure on this training will be on the tables at the Annual Meeting. The cost to attend the training is \$20 and reservations are due by March 8.

New PA system

The PA system was purchased and will be used at the Annual Meeting.

New Business

Seed Giveaway

With the closing of Quail Unlimited recently, the seed that we receive to give away for food plots will not be available. Kelly presented an option of purchasing seed from a company out of Louisville for \$3 per 5 lb bag. Jerry said he would check with Pheasants Forever to see if they had any seed available to give out. Bob will contact Tom Schneider and see what options he has available.

Jerry's Event

Jerry presented a workshop opportunity for the district to take the Food Plot Seeder and display it at the show. The cost for a booth is \$75. A motion to participate in this workshop was made by Nathan Burbrink with a second from Dan Megel.

4-H

Dan Megel made a motion to give \$200 for conservation education programs with a second from Nathan Burbrink.

Region Meeting

The region meeting will be held in North Vernon on Thursday, March 7, at the North Vernon First Christian Church, with a cost of \$20 per person. Kelly and Bob will be attending with the district paying the registration fee.

Straw blower Status

Kelly made the board aware that Clancy's is for sale. Kelly has talked to the owner, Mike, and he assured her that if he was to sell the property he would get with us on the straw blower at that time and we could work out a deal. He is also aware that he owes the district for its share of the rental for 2012 and plans to have that in the next few months.

Kelly asked the board to have a plan in place for the county highway department to use the straw blower if needed. The highway department would be able to utilize the straw blower at no charge on the districts normal rental rate but they would have to work out a deal with Clancy's for the other 40% rental rate. They would need to sign a rental agreement just like anyone else would that is renting the equipment and they would be responsible for any damages, repairs, or cleaning upon return. This policy is put into place so that the office no longer has to call each of the supervisors when something comes up with the highway department wanting to use the straw blower.

National Convention

Jerry attended the National Convention earlier in the month and reported back that funding was a huge topic, food plots were a priority, and that Indiana is leading all other states combined in cover crops

Conservation Plans

Bob signed plans as needed.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Brian Belding with a second by Jerry St. John at 9:20pm.

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant