

Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District
August 22, 2017
Board Minutes

The regular meeting of the Jennings County Soil & Water Conservation District was held at the USDA Service Center in North Vernon, Indiana. Dan Megel called the meeting to order at 6:40 pm.

Board Members

Brad Ponsler
Jerry St. John
Tom Schneider
Dan Megel

Staff

Andy Ertel
Kelly Kent
NRCS
Jenny Vogel

Student Intern

Kameron Garlitch

Reading of the Minute

Jerry St. John made a motion to accept the June 2017 minutes as submitted, with a second from Dan Megel.

Financial Report

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

Correspondence

- 4-H Thanks were received and passed around for board members to read.
- Local Working Group – After Brad read the letter sent out in regards to this the board decided to hold this meeting 30 minutes prior to our next board meeting. So this will be on Tuesday, September 26, 2017 @ 6pm.
- DC Attendance – Brad read a letter from Jane Hardisty in regards to starting Oct. 1, 2017 they will no longer require the District Conservationist to attend regular board meetings outside of their scheduled work hours. She does encourage them to continue interacting with the SWCD board and working with them.

Agency & Committee Reports

Jenny Vogel – NRCS

Written Report

Andy Ertel – SWCD

Written Report

Kelly Kent – SWCD

Written Report

Pollinator Committee Updates

- T-shirts – 10 additional t-shirts were ordered by the public

- Next meeting is September 5 @ 10am at the Jennings Co. Public Library
- District staff will be hosting officials from Shelby Co. on Aug. 23 for a Pollinator tour
- Tom Beckman with Prairie Farmer will be here on Sept. 11 to do a story on Jennings Co. Pollinator Habitats and the SWCD
- A Pollinator Garden Tour has been mentioned and will be discussed at the next committee meeting.

Old Business

Budget Hearing Update – Brad, Andy and Kameron attended the County Budget Hearing last week and felt like the Council was very supportive of the district and asked what the district was asking for the 2018 budget. Andy told them that we had not asked for an increase in over 4 years but that we are getting out in the county and working with landowners, business owners and the general public on educating them about Natural Resources and especially Pollinator Habitat.

Plat Book Update – Kelly notified the board that we have approximately 60 – 70 of the 2013 Plat Books still available at the \$10 per book price. It was decided by the board that whatever we have left when the Annual Meeting comes around we will give away as door prizes.

Wildlife Field Day – This will be hosted by Tom Schneider at his farm on Thursday, October 5th, beginning at 5:30pm – 7:00pm. He has plots planted and will contact Nate Yazel to see if he could speak at this event. The district will provide light snacks and drinks. Tom will also talk to Joel Wahlman at SEPAC to see what went well at their recent event. Tom also mentioned he would like to host a longer field day in the future that would cover ponds and how to deal with predators.

New Business

Annual Meeting

A tentative date of Tuesday, March 6 with a snow date of March 13th was set. Kelly will check to see if there are any other events that would conflict with either of these dates. Once the date has been confirmed she will book the Rolling Hills Shrine Club for the venue and Rolling Pin Catering for the meal. The time will be 6pm.

- Speakers – The board decided to have a local organization/entity update on the following locations.
 - MUTC
 - Tripton Park/Quarry
 - Crosley Fish & Wildlife

Andy will begin contacting people about these areas and lining up speakers to come and inform those in attendance about what's going on now and in the future. Each topic

speaker will be allotted 10 minutes and then a 5 minute Q&A so that we can keep this to a total of 45 minutes long.

SWCD Event Updates

Ag Day will be September 13th, 5th Grade Forestry Field Day will be September 27th & 28th, Tripton Park Update – the park board committee is looking at the following options for the new park.

- 1 acre pond
- ADA compliant playground equipment
- Outdoor Amphitheater
- Pavilions
- Bocce Ball
- Frisbee Golf
- Dog Park

IDEA Conference

Kelly and Andy would like to attend this conference on October 11 – 13, 2017 at West Lafayette. The registration is \$125 each with the hotel cost of \$99 per night. Dan Megel made a motion to send them both to this conference with a second from Jerry St. John.

Industrial Pollinator Signs

Kelly had requested an estimate for 20 signs (9”x12”) to be purchased and placed at the Industrial Business Pollinator Sites. These signs will say Protected Pollinator Habitat, Please DO NOT Mow or Spray, Industrial Business Pollinator Project with the districts logo. Jerry St. John made a motion to make this purchase with a second from Tom Schneider.

Tree Donation

Kevin Grindstaff contacted the office about donating a 36” diameter Cherry Tree to be displayed at the Conservation Building at the Fairgrounds. Andy will talk to Kevin and get a few more details but it was decided that if he does donate this we will use hangers on the wall to display it with a sign stating he and his wife’s name as contributing it.

Extension Homemakers

Bob asked the board to consider making a \$350 contribution in support of the Homemakers reading program. This program goes into the classrooms here in Jennings County and each student in the class takes home their own book from this program. Dan Megel made a motion to support this with a second from Tom Schneider.

Supervisor Elections

A list of potential supervisors was read and current supervisors were asked to make contact with them before the next meeting to see if they might be interested in running for election to our board.

This year we will have 1 elected and 1 appointed to the board. Jerry St. John and Tom Schneider, respectively, terms will be expiring.

District Policy

County Gov't Conflict of Interest Ordinance

The Jennings County Commissioners adopted this new ordinance on August 10, 2017. Kelly read the ordinance to the SWCD board and a copy was placed in the Jennings Co SWCD District Policy binder.

Claims

Claims were submitted to the board and signed.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jerry St. John with a second by Tom Schneider

7:51pm

Minutes submitted by Kelly Kent, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by:

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Member

Member