



**Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District**

211 E. Drexel Parkway

Rensselaer, IN 47978

(219) 866-8008 x3

[jaspercountysoilandwater@gmail.com](mailto:jaspercountysoilandwater@gmail.com)

**February 24, 2026 – 4:00 PM CDT**

eMbers Venue, Rensselaer, IN (This is the annual meeting)

**Supervisors Present** – Lana Zimmer, Jim Martin, Stuart Orr, Scott Bahler, Mark Kingma

**Staff Present** – Cayci Lane and Joshua Kesling

1. **Call to Order** - The meeting was called to order at 4:05pm by Board Chair Lana Zimmer.
2. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**
  - a. **January 2026 Minutes** - The board reviewed the January meeting minutes. Mark Kingma made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Jim Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.
3. **Treasurer's Report**
  - a. **Monthly and YTD Financial Reports** -- Cayci Lane presented the financial reports for January, and the board reviewed the information provided. Jim Martin made the motion to approve the financial reports, and Mark Kingma seconded. The motion carried.
4. **Old Business - Current Grant/Deliverables Updates**
  - a. **Grants update – Josh** – Joshua Kesling reported that he did not have an update at this time.
  - b. **Native Plant/Tree Sales update – Josh** – Joshua Kesling informed the board that there have been eight sales to date, and the deadline to place orders is the last week of March.
  - c. **LKWI Update, signing and uploading materials – Cayci** – Cayci Lane informed the board that the IDEM funds for Quarter 8 have been deposited into the bank account, and she will distribute checks to all cost-share applicants and partners soon.
  - d. **Upcoming Initiatives - Save the Dates, set budgets, if possible**
    - i. **Soil Pit - week of April 6-10** – The board discussed holding a soil pit tour in April and selected April 8 as the event date, with April 10 designated as the rain date. They agreed that all participants will provide their own transportation. Scott Bahler made a motion to set the event budget at \$1,000 and Mark Kingma seconded the motion. Motion carried.
    - ii. **Agrivoltaics tour - Partner with White Co. ?? set date jointly** – The board discussed organizing an agrivoltaics tour in White County and potentially partnering with the White County SWCD. Mark Kingma suggested scheduling the tour for the first week of June. The board asked Cayci Lane to contact the White County SWCD to gauge their interest in partnering and to reach out to Lafayette Limo regarding transportation. Jim Martin made a motion to set the event budget at \$1,000 and Scott Bahler seconded the motion. Motion carried.
    - iii. **Prairie Border Walk** – The board discussed holding the Prairie Border Walk during the last week of May. Stuart Orr suggested May 27 as the event date, with May 29 as the rain date. The board reviewed the supplies needed for the event, including snacks, tents, and drinks. Stuart Orr made a motion to set the event budget at \$200, and Mark Kingma seconded the motion. Motion carried.
    - iv. **Pollinator Walk with City Parks** – The board tabled the discussion regarding the Pollinator Walk with the Rensselaer City Parks Department until next month.



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v. **Fair Week schedule (for publication) July 25-31** – The board designated Joshua Kesling and Cayci Lane to develop the fair week schedule for the Education Center, which is due to the Fair Board during the last week of March.

e. **Other** – Jim Martin made a motion to use the remaining funds from the renovation budget to complete the interior of the Education Center, and Mark Kingma seconded the motion. Motion carried.

5. **PAUSE FOR ANNUAL MEETING - begins at 5pm** – Mark Kingma made a motion to pause the board meeting and begin the annual meeting; Stuart Orr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Chair Lana Zimmer opened the meeting with introductions and recognized sponsors and conservation partners. After dinner – catered by Jean Witherington – was served, Lana conducted the business meeting, and Cayci Lane presented the 2025 financial report. Joshua Kesling provided an update on 2025 programs and previewed upcoming 2026 programs. Jim Martin announced the newly reinstated Weed Control Board and then initiated SWCD elections by opening the floor for nominations. Stuart Orr, whose term was up for re-election, was nominated for Supervisor, and nominations were subsequently closed. Commissioner Rein Bontreger administered the oath of office to Stuart Orr.

Dawn Slack with SICIM gave a presentation on Natural Areas and Stewardship and how invasive species impact it in Jasper County.

Sponsors were Keystone Cooperative, Belstra Farm and Garden, CISCO Seeds, Cup of Joy, Too, Castongia Tractor, Farm Credit Mid-America, Prairie Arts Council, Natural Areas Association, American Farmland Trust, Farm Life Candle Company, Wild Farm Alliance, and Gutwein Seed Services.

6. **New Business - resume meeting** – Mark Kingma made a motion to resume the board meeting, and Stuart Orr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

a. **Elect officers for 2026-27** – Mark Kingma made a motion to retain Lana Zimmer as Chair and Jim Martin as Vice Chair; Stuart Orr seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Stuart Orr made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:03pm, and Jim Martin seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lana Zimmer

Stuart Orr

Mark Kingma

Jim Martin

Scott Bahler

**Next Meeting March 24, 2026 at Education Center**