



Signed

Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District
211 E. Drexel Parkway
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(219) 866-8008 x3
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June 23, 2026 – 3:00 PM CDT

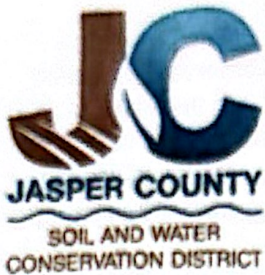
Jasper County SWCD Education Center – Fairgrounds

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

Staff Present – Cayci Lane and Shay Seibring

Partners Present – Courtney McFall, Kevin Shide

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 3:04pm by Board Chair Lana Zimmer.
2. **Partner Agencies and Public Comment**
 - a. **NRCS** – Kevin Shide provided the board with a written report outlining current NRCS program updates. Kevin informed the board that NRCS is currently processing CRP offers, including both new enrollments and re-enrollments for contracts that expired in September. He also noted that the Farm Bill remains unresolved, and NRCS funding is secured through September 30.
 - b. **ISDA** – Courtney McFall did not have an update on behalf of ISDA, but she noted that she will be giving the new RITA Technician, Gabriel Ponce, a tour of the Jasper County Service Center and working with him on July 6.
 - c. **RC&D – Jim Martin** – Jim Martin informed the board that RC&D was holding a meeting this evening, June 23, with the primary topic being the upcoming river rafting expedition. He asked whether the board wished to participate this year. After discussion, Scott Bahler moved that the JCSWCD attend at least one day to maintain the relationship, and Mark Kingma seconded the motion. The motion carried. The board also discussed participating in Kankakee River Days. Mark Kingma made a motion to approve participation, and Stuart Orr seconded. The motion carried.
 - d. **Weed Control Board – Shay Seibring** – Shay Seibring updated the board on recent activities of the Weed Control Board. These efforts include possibly establishing an in-house spraying program, meeting with the county surveyors soon to further discuss program development, conducting budget planning, creating educational materials, mapping for invasives, landowner site visits, and developing management plans.
 - e. **Jasper County Invasives Initiative (JCII)** – Stuart Orr informed the board that he had no updates to report on behalf of JCII.
 - f. **Purdue Extension – Cheryl** – Cheryl Fugate informed the board that Purdue Extension is holding a meeting on June 25, which she plans to attend. She reported that Purdue Extension offices are now organized into regions rather than operating on a county-based model. There are 12 regions, and this structure will allow Extension educators to collaborate across neighboring counties to strengthen local connections. She also noted that, despite the shift to a regional model, each county will continue to have its own 4-H educator.
 - g. **Kankakee River Basin & Yellow River Basin Development – Mark Kingma** – Mark Kingma reported that he had no updates, other than noting that the Kankakee River Basin & Yellow River Basin Development Commission will be meeting on Friday, June 26. He added that he will not be in attendance.
3. **Correspondence** – Lana Zimmer suggested adding upcoming Indiana Conservation Partnership events and announcements to the Correspondence section moving forward.
4. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**
 - a. **May Minutes** – The board reviewed the May meeting minutes. Stuart Orr made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Mark Kingma seconded the motion. The motion carried.



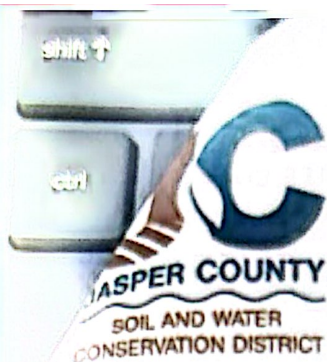
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5. Treasurer's Report

- a. **Monthly and YTD Financial Reports** – Cayci Lane requested to transfer \$750 from the Postage line item to Travel. Scott Bahler made the motion to approve this request. Mark Kingma seconded. The motion carried. Cayci Lane then presented the financial reports for May, and the board reviewed the information provided. Mark Kingma made the motion to approve the financial reports, and Scott Bahler seconded. The motion carried.
- b. **Status on closing First Merchant's account** – Cayci Lane reported that the First Merchant's Bank (FMB) account remains open. Cayci stated that she had been waiting for the IDEM payment for LKWI to determine whether it would be deposited into the FMB account or the new DeMotte State Bank account, following the submission of the account-change paperwork. Cayci noted that she received a call from the State Comptroller's Office verifying the DeMotte State Bank information, so everything should now be in place moving forward. The only remaining step is to confirm that no outstanding checks remain before closing the FMB account.

6. Old Business - Current Grant/Deliverables Updates

- a. **LKWI** – Cayci Lane reported that the LKWI Quarter 9 reimbursements were received and processed last week. The total reimbursement amount was \$12,928.80, of which JCSWCD received \$3,895.60.
- b. **Education Center**
 - i. **Outdoor education areas update** – Cheryl Fugate brought the banners she designed and purchased for the poles outside the Education Center and informed the board that they will be installed soon. Lana Zimmer stated that she brought the landscaping fabric that needs to be installed by staff.
 - ii. **Mural/native planting update** – Addy Cain has begun painting the mural located between the Education Center and the restrooms. The cover crops and native plants boxes are also growing exceptionally well.
 - iii. **Education displays in building** – Cheryl Fugate and Lana Zimmer met with Cayci Lane and Shay Seibring on Friday, June 19, to review all display materials currently on hand and to develop ideas for how the Education Center should be arranged before fair. Shay also shared her proposed layout for the Weed Control Board section of the center. The plan is to include dedicated areas for invasive species, native plants and Indiana ecosystems; wildlife and agriculture.
 - iv. **Plans for fair week** – Cayci Lane reported that planning for the two upcoming events during fair – Ecosystems Exploration and Build-a-BMP – is progressing well. Cayci has secured partner participation for both days, and she and Shay Seibring have been developing activities and creating materials for the events.
- c. **United Way NW Indiana Day of Caring** – Cayci Lane reported that she met with Dave Mays, the United Way NW Indiana Workplace Campaign Director, to discuss logistics and planning for the upcoming United Way NW Indiana Day of Caring on September 18. The project is being planned at Laird's Landing in Rensselaer, with the current goals including trash cleanup, potential invasive species removal, and possibly installing a native planting beneath the billboard. Cayci noted that last year's Day of Caring



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involved more than 600 volunteers across 80 projects. She also shared that DNR is interested in participating that day for a photo shoot.

- d. **America 250 celebration update** – Shay Seibring informed the board that she reached out to Tammy Culp, who oversees the America 250 celebration, who clarified that it is not the type of event where organizations set up a stand or hand out materials. Instead, it is more of a gathering and celebration. Shay shared that she received permission from Commissioner Rein Bontreger to park the Weed Control Board truck during the car show.
- e. **Final discussion on 2027 budget** – Lana Zimmer distributed the proposed amounts for each line item in the 2027 budget request. The board reviewed the figures and made no alterations. The board also discussed the upcoming annual conference in January, and which funds should be used to cover the associated expenses.

7. New Business

- a. **Update on new hire – committees for interviews and staff review process** – Lana Zimmer informed the board that there are currently ten applicants for the Natural Resource Specialist position. She noted that Scott Bahler and Mark Kingma have volunteered to serve on the interview committee. Board members will review all applications, and by the end of the week the board expects to determine which candidates will be invited for interviews.
- b. **Add Mark Kingma as an authorized signer on the DeMotte State Bank account** – Stuart Orr moved to approve adding Mark Kingma as an authorized signer on the DeMotte State Bank account. Scott Bahler seconded the motion, and the motion carried. Jim Martin requested that his name be removed from the account.
- c. **Cost-Share programs**
 - i. **Cover Crops** – Cayci Lane asked the board whether the JCSWCD would like to offer a cover crop cost-share program again this year. The board agreed to proceed and to open the program to all application types, using the remaining \$8,571.69 from the Drop Your Crop funds. Courtney McFall offered to assist Cayci in developing the cost-share program for rollout in late summer or early fall.
 - ii. **Well water testing (\$2500 approved in April)** – Cayci Lane suggested proceeding with the well-water testing through the Indiana Department of Health. Newton and Vermillion counties have had success using this approach. The board decided to offer the program at a 50% cost-share to participants. Estimated testing costs are approximately \$10 for bacteria, \$10 for nitrates/nitrites, and \$20 for heavy metals, all per sample.

8. Staff Update – requests for out-of-county activities/trainings

- a. **Cayci** – Cayci Lane had no requests.
- b. **Shay** – Shay Seibring requested permission to use her Soil and Water workday next week to participate in a Regal Fritillary survey with The Nature Conservancy. Mark Kingma made a motion to approve the request, and Scott Bahler seconded it. The motion carried.



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9. Other – Lana Zimmer reminded the board that the Annual Plan of Work (ApoW) is nearing expiration and that members should be prepared to begin planning next year's ApoW. She also noted that the NiSource grant funds have been received and emphasized the importance of adhering to all grant requirements.

Mark Kingma made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:39pm, and Stuart Orr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Lana Zimmer

Scott Bahler

Mark Kingma

Jim Martin

- i. Cover Crops – Cayci Lane asked the board whether the JCSWCD would like to offer a cover crop cost-share program again this year. The board agreed to proceed and to open the program to all application types, using the remaining \$8,571.69 from the Crop Your Crop funds. Courtney McFall offered to assist Cayci in developing the cost-share program for rollout in late summer or early fall.
- ii. Well water testing (\$2500 approved in April) – Cayci Lane suggested proceeding with the well water testing through the Indiana Department of Health. Newton and Vermillion counties have had success using this approach. The board decided to offer the program at a 50% cost-share to participants. Estimated testing costs are approximately \$10 for bacteria, \$10 for nitrates/nitrites, and \$20 for heavy metals, all per sample.
8. Staff Update – requests for out-of-county activities/trainings
- a. Cayci – Cayci Lane had no requests.
- b. Shay – Shay Seidling requested permission to use her Soil and Water workshop next week to participate in a Regal Fertility survey with The Nature Conservancy. Mark Kingma made a motion to approve the request, and Scott Bahler seconded it. The motion carried.