



Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District
211 E. Drexel Parkway
Rensselaer, IN 47978
(219) 866-8008 x3
jaspercountysoilandwater@gmail.com

July 14, 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

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 3:03pm by Board Chair Lana Zimmer.
2. **Partner Agencies and Public Comment**
 - a. **NRCS** – Representatives from NRCS were not in attendance.
 - b. **ISDA / RITA** – Courtney McFall reported that she conducted a site visit on a 3-acre pollinator planting. She provided the landowners with a seed mix and maintenance instructions and informed the board that total project cost would be \$1,750. Courtney asked whether the board would be willing to cost-share the project. Mark Kingma made the motion to cost-share 75% of the project from the What's Buzz Part 2 fund and Scott Bahler seconded the motion. The motion carried.
 - c. **RC&D – Jim Martin** – Jim Martin informed the board that he did not attend the last RC&D meeting because he was present at the JCSWCD meeting. The board discussed participating in the RC&D river rafting expedition again this year and decided that staff will attend for two days. The board also discussed engaging Jasper County schools in the event; Lana stated that should would reach out to the 8th-grade science teacher, and Cayci Lane agreed to contact Crystal Kellner with Indiana Ag & Tech.
 - d. **Weed Control Board - Shay Seibring** – Shay Seibring informed the board that the Weed Control Board (WCB) voted Scott Bahler in as chair. As a result, Scott will move into the SWCD representative position on the board, and WCB will need to identify a farmer to replace him. Shay also reported that the Jasper County Surveyor was present at the July 9 meeting and determined that she will need to obtain her own Category 6 license in order to begin a spraying program. Shay further noted that she has recently been receiving phone calls and emails requesting assistance from the WCB.
 - e. **Jasper County Invasives Initiative (JCII)** – JCII had no new update.
 - f. **Purdue Extension – Cheryl** – Cheryl Fugate reported that Purdue Extension is working on scheduling its annual meeting, which will take place in December. Cheryl also noted that Purdue Extension is sponsoring a program to pack school bags with supplies and plans to distribute approximately 300 bags within the next two weeks.
 - g. **Kankakee River Basin & Yellow River Basin Development - Mark Kingma** – Kankakee River Basin & Yellow River Basin Development Commission had no new update.
3. **Correspondence - ICP announcements of coming events** – Cayci Lane reported that Liz Rice will resign from her role as IASWCD Executive Director effective August 7. Cayci noted that a Community and Urban Forestry grant is now available for Indiana projects, with \$474,793 available through DNR; applications are due September 11. The board discussed the possibility of applying for this grant to complement the current NiSource grant. Cayci reported that Pheasants Forever requested a renewal of the district's membership. Jim Martin made a motion to approve increasing the district's membership to \$250, and Mark Kingma seconded the motion. The motion carried. Cayci further reported that the National Association of Conservation Districts requested a renewal of the district's membership. Mark Kingma made a motion to increase the membership to \$1,000, and Scott Bahler seconded the motion. The motion carried.
4. **Minutes from Previous Meeting**

Next Meeting August 25th @ 3:00pm



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- a. **June Minutes** – The board reviewed the June meeting minutes. Mark Kingma made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, and Scott Bahler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

5. Treasurer's Report

- a. **Monthly and YTD Financial Reports** – Cayci Lane reported that the county appropriations section of the treasurer's report appears significantly different this month because she learned that the appropriations she submitted in December were applied to the 2026 budget instead of 2025. Cayci noted that another department head confirmed this has happened before and that appropriations must be submitted by mid-December, with any items after that date needing to be encumbered. The board discussed moving funds from Utilities to cover the overage. Cayci will adjust line items as needed to correct the appropriations. Mark Kingma made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, and Scott Bahler seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b. **Status on closing First Merchant's account** – Cayci Lane explained to the board that she needs a motion to void three outstanding checks in order to close the First Merchants bank account. The checks are: check #6282 to Kenneth Culp dated 12/27/2017; check #6401 to Larry Osterholz dated 12/14/2018; and check #6862 to the Purdue Education Store dated 7/27/2023. Mark Kingma made a motion to void all three of these outstanding checks, Scott Bahler seconded the motion. The motion carried.

6. Old Business - Current Grant/Deliverables Updates

- a. **LKWI contract approvals** – Cayci Lane presented the paperwork for U011 (rain garden and barrel) and U012 (rain garden and native planting) and informed the board that both contracts require board approval and signatures.
- b. **LKWI Phase 2 letters of support** – Cayci Lane informed the board that she sent out letter-of-support requests on July 8 for the LKWI Phase 2 implementation. Cayci noted that she has begun receiving letters back and will send a follow-up emails within the next week.
- c. **Education Center - clarify roles and responsibilities and identify all needs for fair** – The board discussed which days they were available to volunteer at the fair. The Education Center will be open each evening from 4-8pm. Volunteer coverage is as follows: Lana Zimmer – Sunday July 26; Mark Kingma – July 27; Cayci Lane – Tuesday July 28 and Thursday July 30; Shay Seibring – Tuesday July 28, Thursday July 30, and Friday July 31 if needed; Scott Bahler – Wednesday July 29; Cheryl Fugate – Thursday July 30; Stuart Orr – Friday July 31.
 - i. **Outdoor education areas update** – Cayci Lane reported that the cover crop and native plant boxes have been mulched in the walking areas. Cayci and Shay will lay out pavers and stepping stones between the Education Center and the restrooms in the new native planting area. They will also be adding pebble to the walking path.
 - ii. **Mural/native planting update** – Lana Zimmer stated that she will speak with Addy Cain to determine when the mural will be completed.
 - iii. **Educational displays in building** – Lana Zimmer stated that she will be handling the wildlife section and the word clouds to be displayed in the Education Center. Cayci and Shay will be responsible for completing the remaining sections.
 - iv. **Finalize all plans for fair week** – Cayci Lane presented two giveaway options for the fair: water bottles with the SWCD logo priced at approximately \$308 for 100 units, and stadium cups with

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the SWCD logo priced at \$146 for 125 units. Cayci noted that the total cost to date for fair supplies is \$464.64. The board discussed setting a budget for promotional items. Jim Martin made a motion to set the budget at \$500, and Mark Kingma seconded the motion. The motion carried.

d. Cost-Share Programs

- i. **Cover crop program updates** – Cayci Lane presented the application for the Cover Crop Cost-Share Program. The program will provide 50% cost share for the total cost of seed and approved method of application. Cayci noted that checks for applicants will be distributed at the November board meeting. Cayci also reported that she is still working on a flyer for the program.
- ii. **Well water testing program updates** – Cayci Lane presented the flyer for the Well Water Testing Cost-Share Program. Cayci reported that all 40 kits have been assembled and are ready for distribution from July 27 through August 6. The cost of the kits are \$20. On August 7, the collected kits will be transported to Indianapolis to the State Department of Health for testing.
- e. **Day of Caring - Laird's Landing update** – Cayci Lane reported that there was no new update for the Day of Caring at Laird's Landing. Cayci noted that staff have been focused on fair events and cost-share programs but will return attention to the project once fair concludes. Cayci asked the board if they would be agreeable to install a native planting under the billboard at Laird's Landing, and the board expressed unanimous support.
- f. **Rafting trips (Kankakee and Tippecanoe)** – Cayci Lane informed the board that she and Courtney McFall learned from Ashley Heims of the Starke County SWCD that Jasper County schools attend Starke County's River Days event. The board agreed that staff should assist Starke County on September 17 and also help with the RC&D river rafting event. The board further agreed that they no longer need to consider participating in Lake County's Kankakee River Days.
- g. **Other** – Courtney McFall provided an update on the NiSource grant. Courtney reported that the Rawles had District Forester James Potthoff visit their property, and he will be preparing a management plan for them. Courtney noted that honeysuckle was found along the edges of their forest and tree of heaven in the front. The plan is to hire a contractor to remove the invasive species and utilize cost-share funds for that work.

7. New Business

- a. **Board approval of Natural Resource Specialist new hire - Summer Brinkman** – Lana Zimmer reported that Mark Kingma and Scott Bahler participated on the interview committee along with Jasper County HR representative Sarah VanDrunen. The committee recommended hiring Summer Brinkman, who is scheduled to begin on July 27. Mark Kingma made a motion to approve Summer Brinkman as the Natural Resource Specialist, and Scott Bahler seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- b. **Banking signature updates** – Jim Martin made a motion for his name to be removed from the Trust Indiana, DeMotte State Bank, and First Merchants Bank accounts. Mark Kingma seconded the motion. The motion carried.

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

- a. **Cayci** – Cayci Lane requested time off on July 29, July 31 and August 11. The board approved this request. Cayci informed the board that IDEA dues and IDEA fall conference is coming up. IDEA dues are \$50 per staff member, and the fall conference will be held October 7-9 at Kettles Lake in Angola. The cost is \$150 per staff member plus \$89.99 per room per night. The board decided to table this discussion until the August meeting.
- b. **Shay** – Shay Seibring requested approval to assist with Earth Night at the Newton County Fair. The board approved this request.

Jim Martin made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:38pm, and Stuart Orr seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Scott Behler

Stuart Orr

Lana Zimmer

Mark Kiser

Jim Martin