



Jasper County Soil and Water Conservation District

211 E. Drexel Parkway

Rensselaer, IN 47978

(219) 866-8008 x3

jaspercountysoilandwater@gmail.com

June 24, 2025 – 3:00 PM CDT

Jasper County SWCD Education Building – Fairgrounds

Present: Lana Zimmer, Jim Martin, Scott Bahler, Mark Kingma, Stuart Orr

Partners present: Kevin Shide, NRCS; Courtney McFall, ISDA; Summer Brinkman, Purdue Extension

1. Call to Order at 3:02pm by Lana Zimmer, Chair.
2. Partner Agencies and Public Comment
 - a. NRCS – Kevin Shide reported that he is working as DC 4 days per week at the LaPorte office. Dieter Markland is acting DC at Rensselaer USDA office. While IRA funds have been withdrawn for programming, the Farm Bill still provides funding for EQIP, CSP, and other programs. CRP sign up will be underway soon.
 - b. ISDA – Courtney McFall had no report.
 - c. RC&D – Jim Martin announced that their annual meeting will be held in September in Winamac.
 - d. Purdue Extension – Summer Brinkman had no report.
 - e. Kankakee River Basin & Yellow River Basin Development - Mark Kingma had no report.
 - f. Public Comments - none
3. Correspondence - none
4. Minutes from Previous Meeting
 - a. May minutes – Mark Kingma made a motion to approve the minutes. Stuart Orr seconded the motion. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Monthly reports were presented. Autumn Knebel had prepared those reports to span from May 17- May 31 to get us back to a monthly basis beginning on the 1st of each month. The Board continued to have some questions on the reporting. Stuart made a motion to table the report until our new treasurer could review all data. Mark K. seconded the motion. Motion carried.
6. Old Business - Current Grant/Deliverables Updates
 - a. LKWI report – Lana reported that she had submitted the invoice for quarter 6 to IDEM.
 - b. Weed Control Board membership recommendations – Per state statute, a recommendation will be made by Lana Zimmer on July 7th to the commissioners for a Township Trustee (TBD), Jim Martin as the SWCD representative, and Scott Bahler as a representative of the farming community. It is the opinion of the Board that all regions of the county should be represented on the Weed Control Board, as each area has its own unique issues. These are four-year terms. Also serving will be Ed Cain, Highway Superintendent (or a proxy) as a voting member, and Summer Brinkman from Purdue Extension as a technical advisor.
 - c. Courtney McFall – ISDA – Courtney reviewed the final report that Samantha had provided on all grant projects that are underway. She will be working to pick up the slack until we can hire a new person.



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- i. Courtney will be working with the LKWI team doing site visits. She mentioned that there is a new urban project in DeMotte that includes 25 acres of new prairie that we are invited to visit.
- ii. Courtney will be helping with preparing for the fair and will be working as a conservation partner on three days of activities focused on pollinators. She will attend Tuesday-Friday from 4-8pm. She will also be helping with the bagging cover crop seed as give-aways.
- iii. Courtney completed a site visit for the Invasive Buy-Back program. We need to follow up on reimbursement per grant requirements.
- iv. Courtney will work on weeding the cover crop and native plant boxes at the fairgrounds.
- v. The mural is underway at the Education building per What's the Buzz grant #2.
- vi. Picnic with the pollinators was canceled due to low enrolment.
- d. Fair planning – assist from Purdue Extension, ISDA, Jasper County Invasives Initiative on programming
 - i. Stuart has volunteered to prepare the outside areas of the building.
 - ii. The schedule will be completed ASAP for Board participation and each of the pollinator programs. Summer provided an overview of each of the days.
- e. Drop Your Crop event – timeline is TBD. Lana will reach out to Mark Jordan, who is the coordinator of the event.
- f. Update on banking – Jim and Lana have opened an account at DeMotte State Bank, because public funds can be held without any fees.
- g. Site visit to Calvary Solar Agrivoltaics project – July 27 12pm @ 9266 N 300 E, Monon. Brian Kortum from NiSource will be explaining the project and how agriculture can continue on solar farms. Several board members and some of our conservation partners will be attending.

7. New Business

- a. Resilient Indiana Technical Assistance (RITA) technician -McKenna Nally - begins – 6/27/2025. She will be available one day per week, and will be attending the site visit to see agrivoltaics in action. Plans will be made for her role with us.
- b. New hire recommendation – Mark Kingma made a motion to hire Cayci Lane for the role of Office Coordinator/Treasurer. Scott Bayler seconded the motion. Motion carried. A laptop, a cell phone, and other office needs will be purchased as necessary using the appropriated county funds. Additionally, as treasurer, the Board approved adding Cayci Lane to our bank accounts at First Merchants, DeMotte State Bank, and Trust Indiana in order for her to complete transactions. She will begin on July 1, 2025.
- c. Jim and Stuart picked up two truckloads of trees from Jasper Pulaski Tree Nursery that were donated to us. Thousands have been given away and planted, and the remaining trees were donated to the Retired Iron Auction which was held on June 21, 2025. Also, the equipment cart



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and the small roller crimper were sold at the auction and brought \$200. Commission will be paid for the sale to the organization, and a check will be sent to us in the near future.

Mark K made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Stuart. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM CST.

Lana Zimmer
Jim Mark
Scott Bahler

Stuart

Respectfully Submitted: Lana Zimmer

Next Meeting July 15, 2025