

## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### **Minutes April 12, 2021**

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, April 12, 2021 at 7:00 pm. Chairman O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:07 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller, Larry Kirchner, Jim Frogge, and Ed Brown, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Emilie Watkins, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle, and Educational Coordinator Crystal Sauder. Absent was District Conservationist Trenton Rader.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the removal of Partners for Conservation Cost Share, the removal of S.T.A.R Program, and the addition of Summer Outreach Intern. Motion passed five to zero.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as printed. Motion passed five to zero.

### **SECRETARY REPORT:**

Minutes of March 8, 2021 Board Meeting

### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

Approval of Time and Travel

Approval of Financial Report

Approval of Bills

**CORRESPONDENCE: N/A**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Grants** – Watkins shared that she submitted the Chicago Region Land Conservation Grant on March 22<sup>nd</sup> to the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation. She informed the Partners of the grant submission and the general timeline of the grant. Rebecca Judd from the Donnelley Foundation is reviewing our grant before it is sent to their Board for approval. She will be reaching out to Watkins to go over our grant and discuss any changes to be made. Watkins shared her concern about the hiring of her replacement before receiving the grant, and if that will impact the grant being awarded to the District or not.

**Education & Outreach** – Sauder shared there are several outreach opportunities lined up for the summer. She will be teaching summer programs for both the Kankakee Valley Park District and the Bourbonnais Township Park District. She is continuing to promote the 2021-2022 Conservation Kits to the school districts in the county. Cornerstone Coffee Shop in Peotone will be hosting an Arbor Day event on April 24<sup>th</sup>. Sauder and Watkins will have a couple tables set up where kids can create their own birdfeeder, plant native flower seeds, and learn more about native insects and wildlife. Sauder will also be teaching 2-3 outdoor lessons at Heldt Park in Grant Park throughout the summer.

**Sales** – Sauder shared the Fish and Tree Sale pickup is on April 16<sup>th</sup>. Native Plant sale pickup will be on June 5<sup>th</sup>. There was a large turnout for both the fish and tree sales.

**Ag Land Easements** – Watkins reported herself and Rader talked with Emy Brawley to discuss how the District and NRCS will be assisting Emy with ag land easements. She shared there were three main ways the District can assist with the program. They also discussed the RCPP in Pembroke Township and the Black Oaks Center EQIP sign-up. There are plans being created for an open house or small groups in Pembroke to help the farmers sign up. T

**Approval of NRI Report & NRI Update** – Watkins recommended the Board approval for a rezone of a parcel of land for NRI Case #2021-03 O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve a letter of do not oppose for NRI case #2021-03 a request for zoning change from A-1 to Rural Estate to build a single-family home on 10000 Rd across from Manteno Lake. Motion passed five to zero. Watkins shared that there is an extension on the Heritage Prairie Solar Farm NRI. She has received many changes to the initial shapefile that she was originally sent. Watkins has not received their updated shapefiles but will continue to work on the NRI after receiving the new shapefiles. The review for the NRI will be on the May 10<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Restructure of Committees** – O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to remove Dave Peters from all Committees, remove the Storm Water Committee, add Ed Brown to the Financial/Budget, Office/Computer/Website, and Personnel Committees, and add Jim Frogge to the Office/Computer/Website, Outreach, and Personnel Committees. Motion passed five to zero.

**RC Job Posting** – Watkins shared she has received five applicants as of 4/12 for the RC Job Posting, with one additional interested in applying. She shared the posting with ONU, KCC, ISU, ICC, AISWCD, and other businesses. She would ideally need around two months to train the new hire, with the hiring taking place in June. A committee meeting may need to be held at the end of May after interviews to hire the new RC.

**Summer Outreach Intern** – Sauder shared her current outreach schedule is heavy in June and July, with at least one event per week. This would be a remote position with weekly in-person meetings. The intern would be responsible for assisting the EC with outreach planning and events, updating the website and managing social media, creating a District outreach activity webpage, and assisting with other organizational tasks in the office. Wissmiller made and Frogge seconded a motion to start the process for looking towards hiring an intern. Motion passed five to zero.

**Approve Signature Card** – Watkins said that Peters needs to be removed from the signature card and Brown needs to be added to it. Kirchner made and Brown seconded a motion to remove Dave Peters from the signature card and add Ed Brown. Motion passed five to zero.

**Approve Sauder Credit Card** – Sauder said she would like to receive a District credit card in order to purchase outreach supplies. Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve Sauder receiving a District credit card. Motion passed five to zero.

**2030 County Plan** – O'Connor went to a Farm Bureau committee meeting to discuss their thoughts on land easements with multiple large projects coming into the county. The multiple large projects will bring an opportunity to create Ag mitigation/impact fees to the county. This money could be pooled into one large pile in order to be used for match funds of grants in order to bring more conservation into the county.

**REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary**

**RC Report** – Nothing additional

**AC Report** – Nothing additional

**EC Report** – Nothing additional

**DC Report** – None

**FSA Report** – None

**Committee Reports** – None

The next regular District Board Meeting will be May 10, 2021 at 7:30 am.

O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed five to zero.  
The meeting adjourned at 8:51 pm.