

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes July 16, 2018

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday July 16, 2018. Vice President Larry Kirchner called the meeting to order at 7:38 am. Present were Directors Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller, Dave Peters and Tim McCorkle, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, District Intern Katlyn Post, and Associate Director Jim Frogge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the agenda as written. Motion passed four to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of June 18, 2018 Board Meeting: Kirchner made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed four to zero.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approval of Time and Travel: Wissmiller made and McCorkle seconded a motion to approve the time and travel reports. Motion passed four to zero.

Approval of Financial Report: Peters made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion passed four to zero.

Approval of Bills: Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the paying of bills as presented. Motion passed four to zero.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI Approval – Janes stated that she is still in the process of working on one NRI for solar projects, with a few potential applications on the way. Janes will be attending any ZBA meetings scheduled that don't conflict with AISWCD Summer Conference Training. An NRI committee meeting was held on Monday, July 9th, with directors Jeff O'Connor and Alan Wissmiller in attendance. The following NRI reports were approved with a position of "do not oppose":
The first **NRI #2018-032** is a 22.08-acre community solar project proposed by McGee Solar, LLC in Rockville Township, with a low LESA score of 187.3.
The second **NRI #2018-033** is a 23.83-acre community solar project proposed by Nostrand Solar, LLC in Manteno Township, with a low LESA score of 185.1.
The third **NRI #2018-034** is a 23.57-acre community solar project proposed by Gazebo Solar, LLC in Bourbonnais Township, with a moderate LESA score of 212.7.
The fourth **NRI #2018-036** was a request to use an existing house for a community residential group home for homeless male teens. The committee determined that a full NRI report was not necessary for this case, and a letter of no effect will be sent out.

SWCD Conservation Survey – Post stated that she has distributed over 100 surveys to date, and that the last day for reporting in FSA is (today) July 16th. Post is working on compiling data into an Excel spreadsheet and looking at trends based on stream code (to be translated into watershed) such as cover crop use, N & P application and NRCS practice/program participation.

After data is compiled, Post and Janes will consider creating an interactive map to display data based on watershed.

Cost Share Programs – Janes stated that the District will have until December 2019 to spend FY2018 PFC money, with the anticipated release of FY2019 PFC money later this year. Kankakee County SWCD received \$4,500 for cost-share opportunities for FY2018. The funds will be used for implementing a well sealing and cover crop cost-share program.

It was decided that the cover crop cost-share program would provide 60% cost-share (IDOA requirement) up to \$20/acre, with a 60-acre maximum per producer, for those who want to plant cover crops for the first time. There is a \$3,600 maximum for cover crop cost-share. For well sealing, K3SWCD will cover 60% of the cost of well sealing, up to \$400. There is a \$1,600 maximum for well sealing.

If K3SWCD seals 4 wells and provides cost share for the 180 acre cap, the total cost would be \$5,200. The board stated that they are willing to pull money from the district funds to cover the extra \$700 of Cover Crop Cost Share, if limits are met.

Janes stated that she has scheduled a meeting with Soy Capital Ag to promote the programs. She will also reach out to Farm Bureau and local papers to advertise cost-share opportunities.

Summer Conference – Summer Conference is taking place July 23-24 in Springfield. O'Connor and Janes will attend, with the option for Post to attend if scheduling allows. Janes stated that FY2018 dues need to be paid for the District to be in good standing. Peters made and McCorkle seconded a motion to pay FY2018 AISWCD dues in the amount of \$1134.31. Motion passed four to zero. Changes to AISWCD By-Laws and three resolutions (2018-01, 2018-02, 2018-03) were reviewed by the Board. Kirchner made and Peters seconded a motion to accept the by-laws changes and resolutions, and give District Chairman, Jeff O'Connor, the authority to vote at the 2018 Summer Conference in a way that represents the Kankakee County SWCD Board of Directors. Motion passed four to zero.

Educational Outreach – Janes stated that she and Post spent a few hours at the Aqua Illinois lab with Kevin Culver, Midwest Regional Environmental Compliance Manager. Culver taught Janes and Post how to identify common macroinvertebrates found in the Kankakee River, and how to determine water quality based on the abundance and diversity of the species identified. Janes has also taught two, one-hour lessons and activities at Heldt Park outdoor classroom in Grant Park. The lessons, for elementary aged children, focused on pollination and native pollinators.

Educational Grant – Janes stated that she had a meeting with Frogge about the Kankakee County SWCD educator grant. Frogge suggests creating a grant program with long-lasting impact, instead of a one-time allocation of money for an educator to implement a short-term project. Janes, with the help of Post and Frogge, will work towards forming partnerships with conservation organizations in hopes of getting them on board for a long-term grant project. Janes will look into ideas for projects. Frogge stated that teachers in the area have already planned for the upcoming school year, and that a grant project should be advertised in the spring of 2019 with the intention of implementation in the fall of 2019.

Pond Management Workshop – Janes stated that the Kankakee County SWCD will host a Pond Management Workshop on Thursday, September 6th at 6pm. Rob Miller will give an

electrofishing demonstration, and discuss species, pond stocking, aquatic vegetation and other pond management topics. Logan Hollow Fish Farm is helping to sponsor the event by donating \$100 for refreshments. Janes is working on advertising for the event, and will send out post cards to past participants and those who have purchased fish from the District.

NEW BUSINESS:

FY2019 Budget – Janes reviewed changes to the proposed FY2019 Budget. Janes stated that she is considering taking on a spring 2019 intern, which would (based on the 2018 summer internship) cost the District between \$3500-\$4000. Peters stated that the budget may be amended to accommodate the possible internship at a later date. Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the FY2019 Budget as presented. Motion passed four to zero.

Approval of Janes' Contract and Bonus – Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve Janes' contract, as well as Janes' \$1500 bonus. Motion passed four to zero.

Personnel Policy Approval – Janes stated that changes to the Health Insurance section of the Personnel Policy needs to be updated to include the following *"Employees have the option to receive a quarterly stipend to help cover the cost of health insurance. The amount will be determined by the District."* Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the changes made to the health insurance policy in the Kankakee County SWCD Personnel Policy Handbook. Motion passed four to zero.

Annual Plan of Work Meeting – Peters made and Alan seconded a motion to table setting a date for the Annual Plan of Work meeting until the August Board Meeting. Motion passed four to zero.

NRI Process Changes and Approval – Janes stated that she reviewed and edited the internal NRI Process document. Kirchner made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the changes made to the NRI Process document. Motion passed four to zero.

Janes stated that she is gathering NRI reports, LESA score information and NRI applications from surrounding counties in order to assess Kankakee County's NRI process and documents.

Soil Judging Contest – Janes stated that she was asked by Iroquois County SWCD to host the 2018 Soil Judging Contest. Kankakee County SWCD would need to find a location for the contest, and dig soil pits. The Board supports this idea, and Janes will need to consider locations and resources.

Warner Diefenbach Memorial – Janes stated that O'Connor brought up the idea of establishing a memorial for Warner Diefenbach, who served on the Board for many years. This will be discussed in more detail at the August meeting.

Prevailing Wage – Kirchner made and Peters seconded a motion to accept the certification of Prevailing Wage Ordinance. Motion passed four to zero.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – None.

FSA REPORT – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to hold the next regular District Board meeting on August 13th, 2018 at 7:30 am. Motion passed four to zero.

The next regular District Board meeting will be August 13th, 2018 at 7:30 am.

McCorkle made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 am.