

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes May 14, 2018

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday May 14, 2018. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner and Tim McCorkle, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, District Intern Katlyn Post, District Conservationist Trenton Rader and Associate Director Jim Frogge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Certificate of Deposit (CD) and NRI Policies & Procedures under New Business. Motion passed three to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of April 9, 2018 Board Meeting: Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed three to zero.

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

Approval of Financial Report: O'Connor made and McCorkle seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion passed three to zero.

Approval of Bills: Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the paying of bills as presented. Motion passed three to zero.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI Approval – Janes stated that she is still in the process of working on several NRI's for solar projects. She has received applications for four proposed solar projects from Solar Provider Group, and is in correspondence with a couple of other developers who have not yet submitted an application. Between the previous meeting and current meeting, an NRI committee meeting was held to approve NRI Reports 2018-016, 2018-017, 2018-018, 2018-019, 2018-020, 2018-021 and 2018-022. All reports were approved by the committee.

Cost Share Programs – Cost-share funds have been released to the District in the amount of \$4500. Janes is planning to draft cost-share programs for well sealing and cover crops.

SWCD Conservation Survey – Janes stated that she had finalized the SWCD Conservation Survey. Katlyn Post, District intern, is responsible for distributing surveys to producers coming in to report acreage. Post stated that she has distributed 9 surveys to date, and they are well received. Post is working on compiling data into an Excel spreadsheet she created.

ONU Pollinator Habitat – Olivet Nazarene University is planning to introduce a 2-3 acre prairie behind Fortin Villa, near Perry Farm.

Mi-Fi – Janes stated that she and Linda Settle are in the process of obtaining a prepaid, no contract Mi-Fi for Post to utilize during her internship.

District Credit Card – Janes stated that Settle and Kirchner contacted the Bank of Bourbonnais, and have obtained a credit card for Janes to use for District purchases.

NEW BUSINESS:

Katlyn Post Contract – Katlyn Post has been hired as the Kankakee County SWCD intern for the summer. O'Connor made and McCorkle seconded a motion to approve Post's contract to work up to 30 hours per week for \$11.50 per hour. Motion passed three to zero.

Summer Conference – Janes stated that the AISWCD Annual Meeting & Summer Training Conference will be held July 23rd and 24th in Springfield. Janes and the O'Connors plan to attend. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to cover the costs of the AISWCD Annual Meeting & Summer Training Conference for Janes and the O'Connors. Motion passed three to zero. Summer Conference should be brought up again at the June meeting to determine whether or not Post will attend the event.

Backyard Pollinator Seed Packets – Janes stated that Pheasants Forever sells backyard pollinator habitat seed packets for a 10'x10' area. They are priced at \$50/50 packets. Janes stated that she would like to utilize the packets, selling them through the District. O'Connor stated that she should continue to look into this initiative, and prepare to sell seed packets later this year in anticipation for a winter frost seed.

RiverWatch – Janes has been in contact with Kevin Culver from AQUA about the RiverWatch program, and is interested in District participation. Janes stated that the RiverWatch program is a citizen science program, allowing students and members of the community to participate in data collection along Kankakee County's streams and rivers. Participants go out to the body of water and collect physical data and macroinvertebrate specimen. The program uses the macroinvertebrates as bioindicators to determine the health of the river or stream. Frogge stated that he was a part of the founding group of RiverWatch volunteers. O'Connor stated that Janes is to pursue this initiative, and work with Frogge to find out more about the program.

Certificate of Deposit (CD) – Kirchner made and McCorkle seconded a motion to place \$50,000 in a 6 month CD with current interest rates, and reevaluate after 3 months. Motion passed three to zero.

NRI Policy & Procedure Manual – No changes were made to the NRI Policy & Procedure Manual. Janes drafted a separate NRI Process document, and implemented suggested changes from the board.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – Rader stated that he attended a District Conservationist meeting, where the Farm Bill was discussed. NRCS is cutting down on employees in each state. CRP cap may increase from 24 million to 25-29 million acres.

FSA REPORT – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to hold the next regular District Board meeting on June 18th, 2018 at 7:30 am. Motion passed three to zero.

The next regular District Board meeting will be June 18th, 2018 at 7:30 am.

O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 am.