

# KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## **Minutes March 14, 2022**

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, March 14, 2022. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 5:33 PM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Jim Frogge and Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller and Ed Brown, Associate Director John Settle, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle, Conservation Coordinator Matt Raymond and Grant Coordinator Emilie Watkins (by phone). Absent were Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Guest in attendance was Hannah Wissmiller.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of CREP under old business. Motion passed five to zero.

### **REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:**

Election of Officers: Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the officers remain the same, which are as follows - O'Connor Chairman, Frogge Vice Chairman, Kirchner Treasurer and Wissmiller Secretary. Motion passed five to zero.

Appointment of Associate Directors: O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to appoint John Settle as Associate Director. Motion passed five to zero.

Restructure of Committees: O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to keep the current committee assignments. Motion passed five to zero.

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

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

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### TREASURER'S REPORT:

Approval of Time and Travel  
Approval of Financial Report  
Approval of Bills

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Raymond stated that the District has been contacted by Katlynn Post, Ag Teacher at Herscher High School, to volunteer her students for assisting at any District events. They are interested in community outreach and teaching ag.

Brandy Curvin with Aqua has also contacted the District, she is looking for places to volunteer with Earth Day or in the future.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

**PFC Cost Share** – Raymond stated the FY2021 Cover Crop final application has been submitted and approved, Strip Till has one submission remaining and Field Monitoring is partially completed.

FY22 cost share has major program change – there will be a concentrated sign up March 15 – April 15, approved applications to be at IDOA by May 1<sup>st</sup>. There are also revised cost share limits - Cover Crops \$3200 total/\$40 acre, Strip Till/No Till \$3200 total/\$30 per acre.

Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve and sign the FY22 Cost Share contract. Motion passed five to zero.

O'Connor made and Brown seconded a motion to approve and sign FY22 Cost Share Practice Component list using the staff recommendation of 75% reimbursement rate. Motion passed five to zero.

**CREP** – Raymond stated that Michelle Bloomquist sent an email stating that not all SWCD's were participating in the CREP easement monitoring and that Districts interested in expanding into neighboring counties were being offered the opportunity. Consensus is to pass on the opportunity.

**Grants** – Donnelly grant - Watkins stated that she participated in a zoom meeting with the Fund's Intern presented the ag impact policy research. Emy Brawley and Delbert Skimerhorn also participated. The Intern shared farmland protection and policy case studies.

Conservation Outreach Committee - Watkins stated that a formal invite is being sent with an email by the end of March to the proposed members of the committee with the first meeting to be May/June. Watkins plans on having members confirmed by end of April.

The first report is due to the GDDF by the end of June.

Conservation Champions Grant - Raymond stated that all the field sites have been scouted. He is transitioning to become the primary contact with Soil Scout.

Watkins reported that she had approached Soil Scout for possible sponsorship of the sensors. They are not interested in partnering.

Watkins stated she is looking into other grant opportunities. She is currently looking at Compeer Financial General Use Grant and IL Farm Bureau Nutrient Stewardship Grant. She is also looking for ideas for future projects.

**River Basin RCPP Proposal** – Watkins stated that Illinois is now an official partner. IDOA/IDNR and several SWCD's have sent letters of support. Chairman O'Connor met with County Board Chairman Wheeler to discuss the project.

**Education & Outreach** – Watkins stated she attended a virtual legislative day and will continue to explore ways to get involved with policy and lawmakers.

Kids Day at the Farm - Raymond stated that items for the classrooms were packaged on 3/11 and delivered on 3/15 by Lisa Habeeb.

Earth Day – Raymond stated that he and Midland has reached out to Taft School about doing an Earth Day activity. Waiting to hear a response.

Soils Class – Raymond reported that Sauder had spoken at a KCC Soils class.

**Sales** – Watkins stated that Sauder had set up the Fish and Tree sales. Iroquois County has backed out of partnering for the Native Plant sale. Possibility Place is causing issues, an alternative supplier could be Sunrise Greenhouse. Discussion was held and consensus is not to have a Native Plant sale.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**NRI-2022-02** – Raymond presented an NRI that is requesting rezoning from A-1 to A-2, separating farmstead from farmland. O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation of approving the NRI. Motion passed five to zero.

**FY23 Annual Plan of Work** – Watkins stated that the changes discussed at the committee meeting were highlighted on the APOW sent to the board including some changes to the objectives. Frogge made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the FY23 Annual Plan of Work as amended, including the objective changes. Motion passed five to zero.

**Personnel Policy** – Tabled

## **REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary**

**RC Report** – Nothing additional

**AC Report** – Nothing additional

**Grant Writer** – Nothing additional

**Conservation Coordinator** – Nothing additional

**DC Report** – Nothing additional

**FSA Report** – O'Connor stated that Shannon is back in the office. Karen will be working on redoing all powers of Attorney with FSA.

## **Committee Reports –**

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on April 11, 2022 at 7:30 AM.

Brown made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed five to zero. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 PM.