

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes June 8, 2020

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday June 8, 2020 via Zoom. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:57 PM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller, Jim Frogge, Associate Director Ed Brown, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle, Resource Conservationist Emilie Watkins, and Conservation Assistant Crystal Sauder. Absent were Directors Dave Peters and Larry Kirchner, and District Conservationist Trenton Rader.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the agenda as is. Motion passed three to zero.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of April 13, 2020 Board Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Partners for Conservation Cost-Share – Watkins stated that the District has received FY 2020 operations funding, and that FY 2020 PFC cost-share has been released from the Comptroller.

Grants – Watkins has been planning for two field days utilizing funding from the NWF Cover Crop Champions grant. A field day for ag retailers at OC Farms will be held on Thursday, August 13th, while a field day for producers and landowners will be held at Benoit Aerial Spraying, Inc. on Tuesday, August 25th. Watkins also stated that she has created the first in a series of soil health videos. The video was shared on Facebook and received well, with over 2,000 views to date.

Sauder reported that trees and shrubs for the Hawkins Park Project (funded by the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelley Foundation) were ordered. She is planning for pick-up and planting with Limestone Park District, as well as carrying out pollinator surveys and community outreach.

O'Connor explained that he, and the AISWCD Foundation, have been working with the U of I to write a Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG) to research triple superphosphate (TSP) and nutrient management. SWCDs across the state will be heavily involved with this project, if funded.

Education and Outreach – Sauder stated that she has been working with Heldt Park in Grant Park to plant an I-Pollinate U of I citizen science research garden. She and Watkins will hold a Zoom training for the community on 5/20 to train family research teams on the data collection portion of the program. Sauder is also working on the District's Conservation Kit program. 1 application has been received and will be reviewed at the July board meeting. It is likely that there will be few kits awarded due to uncertainty around local schools' fall semester. The District has been in communication with ONU and BTPD to continue planning the Perry Farm BioBlitz scheduled for August 28-29th.

Sales – Spring fish and tree sales went well, with the District profiting on both sales. The Native Plant Sale pick-up will be held on June 6th.

NEW BUSINESS:

CD Update – Watkins gave an update on District Certificate of Deposits with the Bank of Bourbonnais. There is a CD maturing on 7/5, and a decision will be made at the July board meeting as to whether the CD will be pulled or renewed.

Budget and Employee Evaluation Meeting – Watkins stated that an FY 2021 budget and employee evaluation meeting must be scheduled soon. The board directed Watkins to send out a text with possible dates for the meeting.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – None.

FSA REPORT – None.

IDOA REPORT – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on July 13, 2020 at 7:30 AM.

O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 7:32 PM.