

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes February 12, 2018

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday February 12, 2018. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller and Larry Kirchner, Tim McCorkle and Dave Peters, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle, District Conservationist Trenton Rader and FSA Executive Director Ed Brown. Guests in attendance were Jim Frogge and Shannon Settle.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Champaign Co. FSA questionnaire and Kid's Day at the Farm under new business. Motion passed five to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of January 18, 2017 Board Meeting: Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed five 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 five to zero.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI Approval – Janes stated that she is working on several NRI's for solar projects. The first is for Community Power Group, it is a 33 acre site. It has a low LESA score and Janes recommends approving the use. Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to follow the recommendation. Motion passed five to zero. The second is for Staley Solar, it is a 402 acre site, also with a low LESA score. Recommendation from Janes is to approve the use. Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to follow the recommendation. Motion passed five to zero. The third is for Microgrid Energy, it is a 14 acre site with a low LESA score. Again the recommendation is to approve the use. O'Connor made and Peters seconded a motion to follow the recommendation. Motion passed five to zero. The fourth one is also for Microgrid Energy and is a 14 acre site with a low LESA score. The recommendation is to allow the use. Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to follow the recommendation. Motion passed five to zero. The fifth one is for Community Power Group, it is a 22 acre site with a low LESA score. Recommendation to approve the use. Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to follow the recommendation. Motion passed five to zero.

Conservation Cropping Seminar – The seminar was held despite a few glitches. The venue had to be changed due to cancellation by the facility where it was supposed to be held. The

main speaker called off the day before the event. The second speaker didn't show up and the third speaker was late. Turnout was not as good as it could have been.

Cost Share Programs – Money has not been released yet.

Drainage District Meeting – Janes has been in contact with Sara Smith from the Illinois Drainage District Association. There will be a Drainage District meeting on March 29th at Quality Inn. The Drainage District Association would like for the Kankakee SWCD to split the cost of breakfast for the attendees. Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to set a budget of \$500 to help with the cost. Motion passed five to zero.

Pond Management Workshop – Janes stated that there will be a pond management workshop on September 6th. She has talked with Logan Hollow Fish Farm and they will donate \$100 for refreshments.

ONU Pollinator Habitat – Janes stated that ONU will be establishing a prairie site on campus and would like the District to help with maintenance and upkeep.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of FY2017 AFR – Janes presented the completed FY2017 AFR for approval. Peters passed and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the report. Motion passed five to zero.

Kid's Day at the Farm – Janes stated that the Kid's Day at the Farm is March 21st and 22nd, 10 AM - 2 PM. Anyone wanting to help, let her know.

Approval of Personnel Policies – Tabled.

Approval of Sexual Harassment Policy – AC Settle had previously emailed the proposed sexual harassment policy for the District. A minor wording change was made and the final copy is now presented for approval. Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the policy and have all Directors sign. Motion passed five to zero.

RC Contract – O'Connor stated that Janes is now full time with the District and her updated contract is presented for approval. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the new contract. Motion passed five to zero.

Approval of RC Activities - Janes informed the Board of some upcoming activities that she is going to be participating in. She is going to participate in a Master Gardner Class in March, teaching an entomology class. She is also looking into some NRCS training that is suggested for anyone helping NRCS with plan writing.

457B – Nothing for the Board to discuss, entirely employee decision.

Master Gardner Class – Discussed during RC activities.

Champaign Co. FSA Questionnaire – O'Connor stated that Champaign Co. FSA has been doing a Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Survey for about 2 years. He is wondering if a survey

for Kankakee County could be put in FSA folders and given to producers to complete while they are waiting for other forms to be completed. Discussion was held on whether FSA helping with this would be an option. This will be on next month's agenda for more discussion.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Janes had nothing additional.

AC REPORT – AC Settle had nothing

DC REPORT – Rader stated that there was a statewide meeting on F-Pac. Combining offices is a possibility where FSA and NRCS are not together.

FSA REPORT – CED Brown stated that the cap on CRP is really close to being reached. The program has been suspended.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

The next regular District Board meeting will be March 12, 2018 at 7:30 am.

O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed five to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.