

# **JANUARY BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

1. Minutes of December 8, 2025 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report

2. Approve Time and Travel
3. Approve Financial Report
4. Bill Approval

Correspondence: None

FSA Report

NRCS Report

Unfinished Business:

- Partners for Conservation (PFC) Cost-Share Grants
- Education & Outreach Events
- AC Job Posting

New Business:

- NRI #2025-09
- Certificate of Deposit

Reports – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

- Resource Conservationist – Crystal Sauder
- Administrative Coordinator – Linda Settle
- Grants & Special Projects – Emilie Watkins

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment

Date and time of next Board Meeting  
**February 9, 2026 at 7:30 AM**

# KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

## Minutes January 12, 2026

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday January 12, 2026. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:32 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Jim Frogge, Larry Kirchner and Ed Brown, Associate Directors John Settle and Cody Rollins, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Grants and Project Coordinator Emilie Watkins and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Absent were Director Alan Wissmiller, District Conservationist Trenton Rader and Soil Conservationist Matt Raymond. Guests in attendance were Adam Wagner and Christian Hofstatter.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Frogge made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of FOIA Request under Correspondence. Motion passed four to zero.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** - Nothing.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed four to zero.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of December 8, 2025 Board Meeting

### TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Kirchner explained that he had received a FOIA request from Judiciary LLC asking for information about how much the District has spent on legal fees from 2024 – July 18, 2025. He responded to the request with the information that the District has not had any legal expenses.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**PFC Cost Share** – Sauder stated that all FY24 funds have been used and additional funds were transferred from surrounding counties. Cover Crop projects have all been submitted and payment authorizations have been received.

**Grants** – Compeer Grant – Watkins stated that the final Compeer report has been submitted. She included a copy of the grant report, grant budget and narrative, infographic and photo sheets in the meeting slides for the board to look at. Watkins has requested a final phone call with Melanie Olson.

Soil On Demand Project site work is complete for the year. Some work will have to be finished in the spring. A replacement antenna and 4 sets of sensors have been ordered.

GDDF Grant – Watkins reported that she is still planning to set up a phone call with Rebecca Judd to discuss connections she may have for the District, keeping in touch for future opportunities and using GDDF as a possible reference or resource in the future.

Section 604B Rock Creek Watershed Plan – Watkins stated that the 604B grant has been submitted and is awaiting EPA review.

Watkins stated that there are no active grants so she will be switching gears to grant research and writing. She will be focusing on small project-based grants with an emphasis on community outreach. Looking at Trees Forever, ComEd Green Region grants, NACD and Urban grants.

**Education & Outreach** – Sauder stated that the Drainage District meeting is tentatively planned for March 11<sup>th</sup>. She is waiting for confirmation from the Knights of Columbus in Kankakee. She asked the Board for any suggestions on topics. Possible topics - 604B grant and nuisance permits for beavers.

**AC Job Posting** – Sauder stated that Directors Brown and Frogge conducted interviews on January 7<sup>th</sup> and January 9<sup>th</sup>. Brown stated that they had looked at the top 8 applicants, set up interviews with those still interested and had 2 possibilities with 1 more interview at 9am today.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**NRI #2025-07** – Sauder stated that the NRI needing approval is for rezoning of 2.5 acres on 7000N Rd. & 9000E Rd., Grant Park from A1 to A2 to remove the homestead from the parcel. Her recommendation is to send a letter of no objection due to a low LESA score. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to follow the recommendation of sending a letter of no objection. Motion passed four to zero.

**Certificate of Deposit** – Sauder reported that one of the District CD's is expiring on January 19<sup>th</sup>. She has contacted the Bank of Bourbonnais and they are currently offering a 12 month CD for 3.25%. Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to have Sauder negotiate with the bank to renew the CD for 12 months at no less than 3.4% but informing them another local bank is offering 3.6%. Motion passed four to zero.

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

**RC Report** – Sauder reported she will be out of the office January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**AC Report** – Nothing additional.

**Grant Writer** – Nothing additional.

**NRCS Report** – Program apps are due January 15<sup>th</sup>. Rader will be out of the office the end of January for paternity leave. Raymond is tentatively due back February 27<sup>th</sup>.

**FSA Report** – FSA base acres are being updated for the first time since 2002. 2019-2023 planted acres are what is being considered for the update. Not sure if anything will need to be done on the farmer's end in the future.

Supplemental Disaster Relief Program (SDRP) Stage 2 sign up is underway through April 30, 2026 for shallow losses.

Farmer Bridge Assistance Program – Payment rates have been released. Common crops for Kankakee are corn, soybeans and wheat. Double crop acres are eligible and prevent plant is not. Payments are expected to go out beginning February 28, 2026 but sign-ups have not started.

### **Committee Reports –**

**Good of the Order** – Associate Director Rollins introduced his guest, Christian Hofstatter, who is an organic farmer visiting from Austria. Christian is involved with European Soil Health projects. He talked about farming in Austria and how it differs from American farming, on the difference between organic farming and regular farming in Austria and answering other questions from the board.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on February 9, 2026, at 7:30 AM.

Frogge made and O'Connor seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 AM.