

SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING AGENDA

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Monday, September 11, 2023 at 7:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

1. Minutes of August 14, 2023 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
Sales
Social Media Policy

New Business:

FY23 AFR
FY24 NRCS Agreements

Reports – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

Resource Conservationist – Crystal Sauder
Administrative Coordinator – Linda Settle
Grants Coordinator & Special Projects – Emilie Watkins
Conservation Coordinator – Matt Raymond
Outreach Intern – Halie Kohl

Adjournment

Date and time of next Board Meeting
October 16, 2023 at 7:30 AM

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes September 11, 2023

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:38 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Jim Frogge, Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller and Ed Brown(left meeting at 8:30AM), Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Conservation Coordinator Matt Raymond, Grants & Project Coordinator Emilie Watkins(via phone), District Conservationist Trenton Rader(left meeting at 8:15AM) and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Guest in attendance was Korbin Collins, new Farm Bureau Manager.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Brown seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Rules for Public Comment and Kankakee County Watershed Advisory Council to new business. Motion passed five to zero.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of August 14, 2023 Board Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

PFC Cost Share – Raymond reported that there was another sign up to use the remaining FY23 funds. Ranking is being completed now. Another 2 or 3 applicants will be funded with the remaining funds.

Grants – Raymond stated that the September event on Carbon, Covers & Conservation was held. Participation was very small but he felt the information given from STAR and SWOF was very good. The next potential event will be late fall/early winter. It will be in combination with Pheasants Forever, USFWS and Willowhaven.

Raymond reported that the base stations being used for the Soil on Demand project are in need of a firmware update. He is preparing to remove the equipment for the winter and the update will be completed over the winter.

Watkins stated that the final grant report for the Gaylord & Dorothy Donnelly grant has been submitted as well as a new application for a 1 year grant for 2024. She is working with Rebecca Judd to review the application.

Watkins reported that she emailed Emy Brawley after the August board meeting with an offer for the District to be the liason for the Fund RCCP. Approval has been received from NRCS to wrap a sub-contract with our District into their existing RCPP agreement. A draft scope of work was received on August 30th and a services agreement was received on September 10th. Discussion was held and further review will be completed before acceptance of the agreement.

Education & Outreach – Raymond reported that the soil judging contest will be September 20th with local FFA chapters. Lottinville Grain Farms will be hosting the event. A habitat/farming event is being planned for the future with Pheasants Forever, US Fish & Wildlife Service and BTPD Willowhaven.

Sauder stated that she will be doing a presentation on our District and the Soil on Demand project for Green Drinks on October 17th. She will also be at the Math/Science Conference for 5th grade girls at Moraine Valley Community College on Saturday, October 28th.

Sales – Sauder stated that the Fish sale orders are due September 11th with pick up on October 6th. She may cancel this sale due to low order numbers. A decision will be made soon. The Tree sale orders are due September 22nd with pick up on October 12th.

Social Media Policy – Sauder stated that she is working on a draft social media policy to be approved at a later meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

FY23 AFR – Sauder stated that the FY23 AFR was completed by SKDO and sent out to the Directors for review. She will submit the report to IDOA after it is approved. Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the FY23 AFR. Motion passed four to zero.

FY24 NRCS Agreements – Sauder stated that the NRCS Administrative agreement needs to have a letter of intent submitted by September 29th. The NRCS CRP agreement needs the pre-proposal submitted by October 20th. Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to continue with the NRCS agreements for FY24. Motion passed four to zero.

Rules for Public Comment – Sauder reported that the idea of having Rules for Public Comment in place for the District was brought to her. Discussion was held on the reason for needing rules regarding public comment and what they should be. Tabled until next meeting.

Kankakee County Watershed Advisory Council – Sauder stated that a Kankakee County Watershed Advisory Council may formed as the County moves forward with managing the Kankakee River. There would be 7 to 9 members with local organizations and river users involved. O'Connor wants the SWCD to be on the council. Tabled until next meeting.

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 – Rader stated that he is busy. It is the end of the fiscal year for NRCS and he is trying to catch up. He reported that there will eventually be a new employee in the office. There is no time frame for when that might be.

FSA Report – Nothing

Committee Reports –

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on October 16, 2023 at 7:30 AM.

Wissmiller made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM.