

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes April 9, 2018

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday April 9, 2018. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller, Tim McCorkle and Dave Peters, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, District Conservationist Trenton Rader and FSA Executive Director Ed Brown. Guests in attendance were Jim Frogge.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Kirchner made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Part-Time Work, Pheasants Forever Solar Seed and District Credit Card under New Business. Motion passed five to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of March 12, 2018 Board Meeting: O'Connor made and Peters 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 O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the time and travel reports. Motion passed five to zero.

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

Approval of Bills: Wissmiller made and Peters 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 still in the process of working on several NRI's for solar projects. Janes stated that five NRI reports for solar need to be reviewed: 2018-011, 2018-012, 2018-013, 2018-014 and 2018-015. **2018-011** is for a 25.91 acre parcel in Aroma Township, with a low LESA score. **2018-012** is for a 74.63 acre project in Limestone Township, with a high LESA score. **2018-013** is for a 71.63 acre project in St. Anne Township with a moderate LESA score. **2018-014** is for a 38.39 acre project in Yellowhead Township, with a low LESA score. **2018-015** is for a 41.84 acre project in Limestone Township, with a low LESA score. All reports are for Cypress Creek Renewables, and Janes recommends approving all for the proposed land use change, with the exception of 2018-012. O'Connor suggests to review and collectively approve NRI reports for 2018-011, 2018-013, 2018-014 and 2018-015. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to follow the recommendation, and to collectively pass that the Kankakee County SWCD "does not oppose" the proposed land use changes for the aforementioned reports. Motion passed five to zero. O'Connor made and Peters seconded a motion to oppose the proposed land use change for 2018-012 based on a LESA score. Motion passed five to zero.

Cost Share Programs – No new information has been released. Money has not been released yet, but Janes is working to make a plan for allocation when the funds are released.

Champaign Co. FSA Questionnaire – Janes and O'Connor presented a draft of the survey and cover letter to review. The board reviewed the survey, making suggestions. Rader and Brown made suggestions based on NRCS and FSA programs. Brown said that the survey should be given to operators, not landowners. Janes will make necessary changes and present the board with a final copy of the survey to hand out to operators during the summer. Peters made and O'Connor seconded a motion to distribute the survey during the upcoming summer. Motion passed five to zero.

Drainage District Meeting – The Drainage District meeting was held on March 29th at Quality Inn & Suites. The meeting was successful, with 55 attendees representing various drainage districts in Kankakee, Iroquois and Will counties. Three speakers discussed commissioner responsibilities, assessments and an update from the US Army Corps of Engineers. The total cost for the event was \$964.50, split between IADD and Kankakee County SWCD. Kankakee County SWCD will pay the full cost, and IADD will reimburse half the cost of the event.

ONU Pollinator Habitat – None.

Kids Day at the Farm – Janes stated that she had created new presentations for the “soil” and “water” stations at Kids Day at the Farm. The event took place on March 21st and 22nd from 10am-2pm at the Kankakee County Fairgrounds. The event was successful, with 53 4th grade classrooms and over 1600 students in attendance. The total cost for the event was \$138.92. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to reimburse Janes for the full expense of the Kids Day at the Farm supplies. Motion passed five to zero.

Cover Crop Sampling – Janes is currently working on calling producers and spreading word about the initiative. Janes will reach out to Farm Bureau and Soy Capital Ag to share information.

AISWCD Web Development & Maintenance – Janes contacted AISWCD and has not heard back regarding moving forward with website development. Janes stated that she reached out to Alan Riley, a programmer at ONU, but he will not be able to offer his services to help develop the website. Janes will reach out to other programmers at ONU.

Master Gardener Entomology Course – Janes taught the Master Gardener Entomology course for the U of I Extension office on March 29th from 9am-3pm. 10 Master Gardeners in training were in attendance. Janes discussed various topics of entomology, insect, integrated pest management and insect pests/management.

Fish Sale Update – The 2018 spring fish sale took place on Tuesday, April 3rd. Kirchner, Wissmiller and Janes were there to help. 21 orders were distributed.

NEW BUSINESS:

LUC 3 Funding Allocation – The District received the LUC 3 funds released to Livingston County. Livingston sent a check to Kankakee County SWCD.

Used Oil Day – Janes suggested holding a used oil day. The board discussed the proposition, and Janes will look into the cost of oil pickup.

Part-Time Work – Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to begin the hiring process for a paid internship position. Motion passed five to zero. Janes will create a job posting by April 10th and post the position to the public. Janes will send the posting to ONU, while O'Connor will send it to KCC. The paid internship position will be filled as soon as possible, with a wage of \$10-12 per hour and approximately 24 hours per week.

Pheasants Forever Solar Seed – O'Connor stated that Pheasants Forever released a low growing solar seed mix. O'Connor discussed that other districts require solar developers to purchase seed through them.

District Credit Card – Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to provide Janes with a district credit card for district purchases. Motion passed five to zero.

4H Trophy Sponsorship – Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to donate \$25 to U of I Extension to sponsor the Conservation Award. Motion passed five to zero.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – Rader stated that Tatiana Gil, Soil Conservationist, is being relocated to Rockford, IL and will not be replaced. CRP is still shut down.

FSA REPORT – Brown stated that one of the FSA employees, Kathy, has announced her retirement.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – none.

O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to hold the next regular District Board meeting on May 14th, 2018 at 7:30 pm. Motion passed five to zero.

The next regular District Board meeting will be May 14th, 2018 at 7:30 pm.

O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed five to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:40 am.