

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes August 14, 2017

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday, August 14, 2017. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 8:10 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Tim McCorkle and Dave Peters, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Absent were Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle, Associate Director John Settle and Director Alan Wissmiller.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Peters made and McCorkle seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Cover Crop Survey and Conservation Cropping Seminar under New Business. Motion passed four to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of July 10, 2017 Board Meeting: O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed four to zero.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approval of time and Travel: Kirchner made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the time and travel reports. Motion passed four to zero.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE: AISWCD membership follow up, AISWCD list of services, NACD invoice

OLD BUSINESS:

Erosion & Sediment Control Service Update – O'Connor stated that, through a conversation with Delbert Skimerhorn at the Kankakee County Planning Department, he was informed of the county's decision to handle Erosion and Sediment Control plans in house. The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District will no longer handle Erosion and Sediment Control plans until further notice. The district will continue training in preparation for the event that the planning process is handed back. If handed back, the district will require a new Erosion and Sediment Control contract with the Kankakee County Planning Department before proceeding.

NRI Approval – Three NRI applications were submitted and reviewed by the board. It was determined that for all three applicants, a full NRI report would not be necessary.

Great Lakes Basin Railroad – Kirchner stated that there was no new information released about the progression of the GLBR.

NLRS – O'Connor stated that at the upcoming Farm Progress Show, an announcement about the progress of the NLRS will be made.

Signature Resolution for AC – O'Connor and Janes will work to draft the resolution.

Summer Conference – O'Connor and Janes attended Summer Conference on July 24th and 25th. O'Connor recapped the events that took place, including the strategic planning process and AISWCD annual meeting. He noted that the association is moving in a positive direction with the new strategic plan, which focuses on building relationships with partners and securing alternative funding sources for the soil and water conservation districts.

Teen Conference – On July 11th, O’Connor and Janes traveled to Chicago to present a soil health workshop at the 2017 Teen Conservation Leadership Conference. The event was open for teens from all over the Chicagoland area. The soil health presentation and workshop created by the district will be used for future events.

Website Update – Janes shared that the website is ready for publishing. A one year premium subscription to Wix was purchased. Janes is still working to authenticate the domain before the official website can be shared with the public.

Future Solar Projects – None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Plan of Work and Long Range Plan Update – A meeting was held on August 3rd to draft the FY2018 Annual Plan of Work. O’Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the FY2018 Annual Plan of Work. Motion passed four to zero. The APW will be shared on the district’s website.

Employee Reviews & Contracts – Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to empower O’Connor to negotiate a new contract with Resource Conservationist, Emilie Janes. Motion passed four to zero. An employee evaluation was conducted after the meeting, and a new contract will be negotiated.

FOIA & OMA Officer Voting – Peters made and O’Connor seconded a motion to appoint Kirchner as the FOIA and OMA officer. Motion passed four to zero.

Stormwater Contract with the EPA – Janes stated that she was contacted by a representative from the EPA about the status of the storm water contract between the district and the EPA. O’Connor stated that the contract was terminated, but further investigation is necessary.

Well Sealing – Janes stated that she is in the process of contacting other districts for information about well sealing programs.

Cover Crop Survey – Janes shared with the board a cover crop survey that will be sent out to producers involved in the NLRS cover crop sampling initiative. Janes hopes to gain insight into the results of the effort from the producers’ point of view.

Conservation Cropping Seminar – O’Connor stated that a conservation cropping seminar will take place in Kankakee County in January 2017. Planning and preparation for the event is currently taking place.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – Trenton Rader stated that all new CRP requests are being put on a wait list.

FSA REPORT – Brown stated that a storm had damaged the building, and that it is currently in the process of being repaired.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

The next regular District Board meeting will be September 11, 2017 at 7:30 am.

O’Connor made and Peters seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:50 am.