

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes November 10, 2021

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting through Zoom on Monday, November 10, 2021. Vice Chairman Jim Frogge called the meeting to order at 7:31 AM. Present were Directors Jim Frogge, Larry Kirchner, and Ed Brown (left the meeting at 8:25), Alan Wissmiller (joined the meeting at 8:25), Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Grant Coordinator Emilie Watkins, and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Absent were Director Jeff O'Connor, Assistant Director John Settle and District Conservationist Trenton Rader.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Frogge made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the agenda with no additions. Motion passed three to zero.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of October 18, 2021 Board Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

PFC Cost Share – Watkins stated that the number of projects is still 12. There are 9 cover crops and 3 strip tillage. All projects are maxed out on their payments.

Grants – Watkins stated that she has been networking, getting the District's name out. She has received the payment document from the Gaylor and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation to complete and submit for the first payment of \$50,000. Discussion was held on what will be charged to the Donnelly grant, how to set up QuickBooks and setting a meeting with SKDO for assistance is setting it up correctly for tracking and reporting. AC Settle has made contact with SKDO. She asked who was going to participate in the meeting so that a meeting can be set. Kirchner stated that he would be a part of the meeting to help explain what we are looking for in the set up for the Donnelly Grant. Watkins stated that she has the final contract for the Conservation Champions grant. The grant is for on-farm trials and outreach, working with local

farmers, ISA and Black Oak Center. Discussion was held on who should sign the contract and who should be contact person. Frogge made and Brown seconded a motion to have Chairman O'Connor sign the contract and Crystal or Emilie being listed as the contact person. Motion passed three to zero.

Watkins stated that the support letter for the Rock Creek Watershed Based Plan has been submitted.

Education & Outreach – Sauder stated that Mark Bramstedt has submitted an invoice for his time and travel for professionally judging the soil pits for the soil judging contest. Brown made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve payment of the invoice for Mark. Motion passed three to zero.

CREP – Watkins stated that she and Crystal had had a phone call with Michelle Bloomquist to discuss CREP. The District holds 8 easements in Kankakee County with 1 being in Iroquois County. SWCD's have an option to transfer current and future easements to IDNR giving them control. The District can continue to monitor current and new easements even if they do transfer them.

Conservation Coordinator Job Posting – Sauder stated that she posted the job on several websites including Indeed and the Conservation Job Board. She has had good responses from those two sights. She has already sent 6 resumes to the Directors and received 3 more that she will be sending. The interview process will start as soon as possible.

Director Elections – Sauder stated that a nominating committee for the election of Directors needs to be appointed. There are three Directors up for election - Ed Brown, Alan Wissmiller and Larry Kirchner. Frogge made and Kirchner seconded a motion to appoint Frogge and O'Connor as the nominating committee. Motion approved three to zero.

NEW BUSINESS:

Watkins Title – Watkins stated that she would like to have an official title to use when she is making contact with people or organizations. She thinks Grant Coordinator because she does grant writing and grant management. Discussion was held about how she does a lot more than that and would like her to have a title that covers more. She is going to do some thinking and bring another suggestion to the December meeting.

Kankakee River Basin RCPP – Watkins shared information regarding the proposal being written on the Indiana side of the Kankakee River Basin. It addresses water

quality, quantity and soil health. They are looking for potential partners on the Illinois side.

Northeast Farm Link – Watkins stated that she had attended an easement seminar given by Liberty Prairie Foundation. There is a website that connects farmers and landowners, provides resources and hosts events.

K3SWCD Org Chart – Watkins shared the visual she made of the organization of the District.

Heritage Solar NRI Report – Sauder stated that she had been contacted by Allen Wynn from Pattern Energy about adding additional pieces of land to the NRI for the Heritage Solar. New map/shapefiles will be sent to the District soon. Discussion was held about whether there should be one NRI report for the additional parcels or each one separate. Consensus is that each parcel will be a separate NRI application, report and fees.

REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC Report – Nothing additional

AC Report – Nothing additional

Grant Writer – Nothing additional

Outreach Coordinator – Nothing additional

DC Report – CRP payments are being sent out. Sauder is helping Rader contact people. Vaccine requirements are still unsettled. As of now SWCD's are going with the NRCS guidelines.

FSA Report – Acting CED Shannon Murphy will be on maternity leave December through March. She is no longer Acting CED buys new one has not been appointed yet. She will still be in the Kankakee office on Tuesday's for now.

Committee Reports – Kirchner reported that the state website for the online FOIA and Open Meetings Act training that is needed each year is down. He is unable to complete the training because of this issue.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on December 13, 2021 at 5:30 PM.

Wissmiller made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 AM.