

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes September 13, 2021

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, September 13, 2021. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller and Ed Brown, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and Intern Megan Schroeder. Project Manager Emilie Watkins participated by speaker phone. Absent were Director Larry Kirchner, Jim Frogge and District Conservationist Trenton Rader.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of CRP Agreement and CREP added to new business. Motion passed three to zero.

CONSENT AGENDA: O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed three to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of August 16, 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 – Sauder stated that the District's cost share rates for FY21 was 50% up to 20 acres with a \$1600 max. The FY22 rate has been sent out as 50% up to 40 acres with a \$1600 max. Regional Representative Elliott Legacy told her that IDOA has not set new rates yet and that we cannot use the FY22 rate we set, we either have to go back to the previous rate or go to IDOA's current max of 75% up to 40 acres with a \$1600 max. Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to use the IDOA max rate. Motion passed three to zero.

Sauder then presented 4 applications for cost share funding for the fall. 3 are for cover crops that will be for the \$1600 max and 1 is for strip tillage that will be for \$800.

O'Connor made and Brown seconded a motion to approve the applications for cost share payment. Motion passed three to zero.

Grants – Watkins stated that there is nothing new with the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation grant. The Conservation Champions grant application has been approved. We will receive \$14,250 and will be used for on farm trials and outreach/field days.

Education & Outreach –Sauder stated that the Bio Blitz was held but the 90+ degree weather and the other outdoor events in the area made the attendance not as good as she was hoping for. The IL Raptors show had a good turnout.

Sauder presented the upcoming events: Insect Collecting at Kennedy Middle School 9/15, Soil Conservation at Herscher High School 9/17, Soil Judging Event 9/29 and Winter Habitat Workshop. She stated that USFWS is not able to do in person events/meetings so she will be checking with Pheasants 4Ever.

Conservation Coordinator Position – Sauder stated there are 4 applicants. They all have either Ag background or Outreach experience but none of them have both. Some discussion was held but references will be checked before talking to anyone.

NEW BUSINESS:

CRP Agreement – Sauder stated that the District needs to have Conservation Planner for the CRP Agreement. SWCD's are going to be doing 100% of CRP workload, do field checks, write plans and contracts.

NRI Report – Sauder stated that she has 2 NRI's to present for approval. 1 is for 40 acres that they are wanting to split in half to sell. 1 half contains a home site and the other half is farmland. The recommendation is to send a no effect letter. O'Connor made and Brown seconded a motion to accept the recommendation and send a no effect letter. Motion passed three to zero.

The 2nd NRI is currently zoned at A-1, Sauder stated she is a little unsure of what to do but recommends a full NRI report. Wissmiller made and Brown seconded a motion to accept the recommendation to do a full NRI report. Motion passed three to zero.

FY22 Budget – Discussion was held on the FY22 budget. A 10% contingency is being included for payroll. O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the budget with the 10% contingency. Motion passed three to zero.

CREP – Sauder stated that Michelle Bloomquist with IDNR wants to discuss contract holding and SWCD involvement in easements. A conference call will be scheduled to learn more.

RC Report – Nothing additional.

AC Report – Nothing additional.

Outreach Coordinator – Nothing additional

Grant Writer – Nothing additional

DC Report – CRP Contracts are being worked on.

FSA Report – Nothing.

Committee Reports – None

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on October 18, 2021 at 6:30 PM.

O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.