

## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### **Minutes May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting on Monday, May 9, 2019. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:40 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller, Larry Kirchner, Dave Peters, and Jim Frogge, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, District Conservationist Trenton Rader.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Riverside Meeting and Conservation Survey under New Business, and Contract Worker under Old Business. Motion passed five to zero.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed five to zero.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Minutes of April 8, 2019 Board Meeting.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**NRI Recommendation** – Janes recommended a letter of no effect be written for NRI case #2019-003. Peters made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve a letter of no effect for NRI case #2019-003, a request to rezone parcels at 3878 Vincennes Trail in Momence from R-1/C-2 to A-1 to continue using land for agricultural processes including equipment maintenance, farm planning, and expansion of existing farm maintenance facility. Motion passed five to zero. Janes stated that there were no other NRI applications submitted for review.

**PFC Cost-Share** – O'Connor made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the Partners for Conservation Program FY2019 conservation practices of well decommissioning, cover crops, and strip-till at the recommended IDOA maximums (hand dug wells 75% not to exceed \$400, drilled wells 75% not to exceed \$750, cover crops 75% up to \$40/acre with a maximum of \$1600 per landowner, strip-till \$20 per acres up to \$800 per landowner). Motion passed five to zero.

**Grants** – Janes stated that there were four applications for Conservation Kits and recommended that all be approved. Peters made and O'Connors seconded a motion to award Conservation Kits to all four applicants. Motion passed five to zero. 3 insect collection kits and 1 native plant herbarium kit will be awarded to four educators in Kankakee County. Janes will begin purchasing equipment, assembling kits, and creating resource binders.

**Outreach & Education** – An IDOT roadside habitat/butterfly and moth rearing workshop is being organized by the District and the Illinois Native Plant Society. The workshop will be held at

the Kankakee Valley Forest Preserve District office on June 29<sup>th</sup> from 12pm-2pm. Janes will be presenting at Heldt Park Outdoor Classroom on Wednesday June 19<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Lady Landowner Workshop** – American Farmland Trust (AFT) Lady Landowner Learning Circle event has been scheduled for Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> at the Kankakee County Forest Preserve District Office. Janes is waiting for promotional material to be released from AFT before she begins promoting the event.

**Soil Health Field Day** – Janes stated that the District is working on organizing a soil health field day with the Soil Health Partnership and Will County SWCD in August. Possible topics include strip-till, mixed species cover crops, water quality practices, S.T.A.R. Program, and more.

**Sales** – Janes stated that the fish and tree sales have been completed and went well. Overall, there were 21 pond stocking orders and 18 tree/shrub orders. There are currently 31 native plant sale orders. The native plant sale will be on Saturday, June 1 from 9am-1pm.

**Natural Resources of Kankakee County** – O'Connor gave an update on the *Natural Resources of Kankakee County* publication reprint. O'Connor stated that he has not heard back from Van Drunen Farms if they will partner with K3SWCD to cover 50% of the cost of reprinting the publication. Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to cover the full cost of printing 50 copies of the *Natural Resources of Kankakee County*, unless we hear back from Van Drunen Farms. Motion passed five to zero.

**Certificate of Deposit** – A 6-month, \$50,000 Certificate of Deposit was opened at the Bank of Bourbonnais on 4/12. Kirchner made and Peters seconded a motion for Janes to shop 9, 11, and 12 month Certificate of Deposit Rates, report back to O'Connor, and then open an additional CD for \$50,000. Motion passed five to zero.

**Riverside Meeting** – O'Connor shared that he, Janes, and Sauder visited Riverside Medical Center to discuss the potential for future partnership and collaboration. Sauder had shared her plans for incorporating native plants and pollinators into senior citizen programs at Riverside, as well as the potential to install native forbs and shrubs along walkways at the senior care facilities. O'Connor discussed the S.T.A.R. Program. The meeting went well with hopes of a partnership or collaboration in the future.

**Conservation Survey** – Janes stated that she is working on tweaking the District conservation survey for 2019. The survey will be handed out to producers who report acres at FSA. Janes will create handouts to give survey participants that highlight PFC cost-share opportunities.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Approve FY2020 Annual Plan of Work** – O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the FY2020 Annual Plan of Work. Motion passed five to zero.

**Review FY2020 Budget** – The budget will be reviewed at the June meeting.

**Employee Evaluation Meeting** – The Employee Evaluation meeting originally scheduled for June 3<sup>rd</sup> will be tabled and an alternative date discussed at the June meeting.

**NACD Dues** – Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to pay dues to NACD in the amount of \$150. Motion passed five to zero.

**Laptop & Software** – Peters made and Frogge seconded a motion for Janes to price an additional laptop and laptop software (Adobe Acrobat PDF software and Microsoft Suite) for two laptops, receive input from Peters, and purchase the laptop and software. Motion passed five to zero.

**August Meeting** – O'Connor stated that the August meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 8am at FutureCeuticals/Van Drunen Farms. Following the meeting, water quality practices will be discussed, and the Board will have a tour of the facilities.

**Contract Worker** – Janes stated that she will create a job posting and solicit resumes for a contract worker to hand out the District conservation survey.

**REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary**

**RC REPORT** – Nothing additional.

**AC REPORT** – Nothing additional.

**DC REPORT** – Nothing additional.

**FSA REPORT** – None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None.

The next regular District Board meeting will be June 17, 2019 at 7pm.

O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed five to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:15 am.