

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes July 8, 2019

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular month meeting Monday July 8, 2019. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 9:18 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner and Jim Frogge, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, District Conservationist Trenton Rader, Conservation Assistants Crystal Sauder and Dakota Behrends. Absent were Directors Alan Wissmiller and Dave Peters, Associate Directors John Settle and Ed Brown.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Employee Evaluation under New Business. Motion passed three to zero.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of June 17, 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 recommend a letter of do not oppose be written for NRI case #2019-005. O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve a letter of do not oppose for NRI case #2019-005, a request for variance in order to construct 9,600 square foot storage building at 11507 W State Route 17, Bonfield. Motion passed three to zero. Janes stated that there were no other NRI applications submitted for review.

PFC Cost Share – Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve all 19 PCF Cost-Share applications. Motion passed three to zero. Behrends will begin to call the recipients and send out Welcome Packets to those who accept.

Grants – Janes stated that Sauder had placed an order through BioQuip and will continue to order the rest of the supplies for the Conservation Kits. After the arrival of supplies, Sauder will assemble the kits, organize the training, and put together the resource binders. Janes stated Trevor Edmonson will order seed for Hawkins Park and that they are waiting to hear back from the Donnelly Grant Board. Sauder will reach out

to TAFT and Herscher to involve them with planting. Sauder will create a Grants Calendar to go along with the RIS Binder. Janes will start looking at grants for FY 2020.

Outreach & Education – Janes stated that Behrends and O'Connor had attended a SHP Risk Management Seminar where O'Connor was on the panel. O'Connor and Janes attended an Illinois Soybean Association Presentation in Chicago where they presented to Chinese soybean buyers about "Sourcing Sustainable Soybeans." Janes and Sauder presented at Heldt Park Outdoor Classroom about the different ecosystems located in Kankakee County. Janes and Sauder attended an IDOT Habitat Workshop at the Kankakee Valley Forest Preserve District office. Janes and Sauder will present at Heldt Park Outdoor Classroom on July 10th about "Plants and Pollinators."

S.T.A.R. Program – Sauder stated that the results from the 2018 S.T.A.R. Program are in. 25,027 acres, 427 fields, total were recorded in the state of Illinois. There were 11 fields located in Kankakee County. Sauder and Behrends will verify Field #2 together. A new S.T.A.R. Field Form for 2019 has been released. Instead of three separate Field Forms for Illinois, there is now only one copy for the state. Sauder will send a PDF of the new form out to the board.

Natural Resources of Kankakee County – Sauder stated that the book had been rescanned and had added a letter of permission and the new forward to the digital copy. A note of permission is being added to the bottom of each scanned page. Janes stated there were no updates involving Van Drunen Farms participating in the reprinting process. Sauder will finish compiling the scanned book into one document and will call AdCraft Printers to get an updated quote for the new book.

Certificate of Deposit – Janes stated that a 12-month Certificate of Deposit was opened on July 5th with Bank of Bourbonnais for \$50,000. The Certificate of Deposit has a 2.24% rate with 2.25 APR.

Producer Conservation Survey – Behrends stated the data collected from the 2019 survey. She noted that a lot of farmers were utilizing no-till practices in the county and using light tillage. There is a 3:2 never used, would consider ratio for cover crops. Behrends stated there needs to be more publicity about the MRTN Calculator due to most people not understanding what it is. There is a potential for growth for EQIP, WRP, and Water Quality Initiatives.

NEW BUSINESS:

Outreach Report – Janes stated that there was a significant spike on the webpage in February and March of this year. The Facebook page has 110 followers and the new Instagram Page has 14 followers. Janes, Behrends, and Sauder will continue to update the pages. Behrends has been interviewing local farmers about their conservation practices and publishing them on our Facebook and Instagram Pages. The interviews of local farmers have been grabbing a lot of attention from the public online.

FY2020 Budget – A committee meeting will be rescheduled to finish the FY202 Budget and report by the August 13th Board Meeting.

Committee Report – O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to increase Janes' pay to \$20 per hour for a FY2020 contract.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – nothing additional

AC REPORT – nothing additional

DC REPORT – none

FSA REPORT – none

COMMITTEE REPORTS – none

The next regular District Board meeting will be August 13, 2019 at 7:00 AM located at Van Drunen Farms' FutureCeuticals headquarters in Momence.

O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 10:07 AM.