

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes January 14, 2019

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday January 14, 2019. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:37 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Dave Peters, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, and NRCS District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Absent were Directors Alan Wissmiller, Tim McCorkle, and Associate Director Jim Frogge. Guests in attendance were Rob Shurman.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the agenda as written. Motion passed three to zero.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motions to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed three to zero.

Please see January meeting agenda on last page of minutes for items listed in consent agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE: Jason Bleich and Dallas Glazik of Pheasants Forever inquired about hosting a wetlands seminar in Kankakee County. O'Connor stated that the K3SWCD will support and assist in the wetlands seminar, if needed. Jean McGuire of The Wetlands Initiative sent Janes an email about presenting the Smart Wetlands program at a Board Meeting. O'Connor stated that he attended a wetlands meeting the previous week, and heard about the Smart Wetlands program. O'Connor gave a quick summary about Smart Wetlands to the rest of the Board. Smart Wetlands are "small constructed wetland[s] specifically designed to use naturally occurring processes to remove excess nutrients from agricultural tile drainage before it leaves the cropland." More information here: <https://www.smartwetlands.farm/>

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI – Janes stated that she received one NRI application and will complete the report to be approved at the next meeting.

Partners for Conservation Cost-Share – Janes stated that she discussed which practices would be best to implement with Rader. Rader states that strip-till, cover crops, critical area planting, and waterways would be good practices to pursue and promote for FY 2019 cost-share. Janes will put together a cost-list and information about practices for the next meeting.

Grants – Janes stated that she will have the K3SWCD conservation kit equipment bundles completed and on the website by the next meeting. She will get in touch with Gregg Murphy and discuss K3SWCD initiatives with him. Janes is waiting for the Communityworks Grant application to be released sometime this month. O'Connor discussed Compeer Financial grant opportunities with the Board.

Spring Intern – Janes had sent out spring intern cover letters and resumes to the Board for review, and each of the Board members sent back their top 3 candidates. The Board further discussed the candidates and selected the 2019 spring intern. O'Connor made and Peters seconded a motion to offer Crystal Sauder the position of spring intern, starting off working up to 15 hours per week at \$11.50 per hour. Motion passed three to zero.

Office Laptop – Janes discussed options for purchasing a new office laptop. The laptop will be used for interns and an additional copy of QuickBooks. Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to purchase a laptop for up to \$1,500. Motion passed three to zero.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Annual Financial Report – O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve and submit the FY 2018 Annual Financial Report. Motion passed three to zero.

Approval of NRCS Sub-Agreement Amendments – O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to sign and approve the new NRCS sub-agreement amendments. Motion passed three to zero.

Midland States Bank Earth Day Program – Janes stated that she and O'Connor had approached Midland States Bank about assisting with an Earth Day program this year. The manager was very open to expanding and improving her program with the assistance of the K3SWCD. Janes stated that she would like to purchase biodegradable cups, seed, and other supplies for the project. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve purchasing supplies for the Midland States Bank Earth Day program. Motion passed with 2 yeas from O'Connor and Kirchner and 1 abstain from Peters.

Illinois Native Plant Society Partnership – Janes stated that the IL Native Plant Society is helping with the K3SWCD native plant sale and workshops. The INPS would like to form a written agreement. Peters mentioned an MOU. Janes will look into this and discuss it with the INPS.

Native Plant Sale and Workshops – Janes stated that she completed the order forms and information for the Native Plant Sale that will be held on Saturday, June 1st from 9am-1pm. Janes also stated that she is working with the INPS and Extension to put on workshops and seminars about native plants. The deposit for the native plants from Possibility Place Nursery is due on March 1st. Peters made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the native plant sale quote, and to pay the deposit. Motion passed three to zero.

Outreach Report – Janes shared an outreach report and website statistics with the Board. She stated that the website has had over 2,000 visits since its inception, and that the home page, sales page, and internship page have had the most traffic.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – Rader stated that CSP and EQIP programs will be undergoing changes through the new Farm Bill.

FSA REPORT – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

O'Connor stated that the next meeting will be held on **February 11, 2019, at 7:30 am**. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

**Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District
Monday, January 14, 2019 7:30 AM**

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

Minutes of December 10, 2018 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Approve Time and Travel

Approve Financial Report

Bill Approval

Correspondence

Dallas Glazik & Jason Bleich, Pheasants Forever

Jean McGuire, The Wetlands Initiative

FSA Report – Ed Brown, CED

NRCS Report – Trenton Rader

Old Business:

NRI Update

Partners for Conservation Cost-Share

Grants

Spring Intern

Office Laptop & Software

New Business

Approval of Annual Financial Report

Approval of NRCS Sub-Agreement Amendments

Midland Bank Earth Day Program

Illinois Native Plant Society Partnership

Native Plant Sale & Workshop

Outreach Report

Reports – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC - Emilie Janes

AC - Linda Settle

Adjournment

Date and time of next Board Meeting

Monday, February 11th, 2019 at 7:30 AM