

## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Minutes July 13, 2020

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:33 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Jim Frogge, Dave Peters, and Alan Wissmiller, Resource Conservationist Emile Watkins, Educational Coordinator Crystal Sauder, and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Absent were Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and Associate Directors John Settle and Ed Brown.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed five to zero.

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

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of June 8, 2020 Board Meeting

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** N/A

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**PFC Cost Share** – Watkins stated we have received the FY2020 operations funds and the FY2020 cost share funds. The FY2021 budget is level with FY2020 funding. O'Connor mentioned there are FY2020 funds left in the state that need to be used by November. It was suggested to begin heavily promoting the District's cost-share opportunities and add additional practices.

**Grants** – Watkins shared dates were set for the two field days for the Cover Crop Champions Grant. She has been working on the next soil health video but has been concentrating on planning and promoting the Ag Retailer Field Day event. The board suggested mailing the event flyer to businesses as opposed to sending postcards.

Sauder shared that she has been conducting bi-weekly pollinator surveys at Hawkins Park in Kankakee for the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation Grant. Watkins designed brochures with seed packets inside for community members to take. A fall tree and shrub planting is planned, and Watkins and Sauder will be allowing families to come and plant a tree. Sauder designed a District Projects page to educate people about the District's current grants and projects.

Watkins shared that she and Sauder will be meeting with the Manteno Village Administrator and the Public Works Director on July 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss potential grants and long-term projects. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) Green

Infrastructure Grant and the ComEd Green Region Grant are two potential grants for the habitat projects.

**Education & Outreach** – Sauder stated that the iPollinate Program has been going well at Heldt Park. She hosted a Pollinator ID Zoom training on June 17<sup>th</sup>. The community around Heldt Park is collecting the data for the iPollinate Program and the SWCD is turning in the collected data online.

Sauder has received one Conservation Kit application for the upcoming school year. Tracey Valant teaches Honors Botany at Bishop McNamara and applied for the Soil Health Kit. Sauder recommended the approval of the Soil Health Kit for Tracey Valant. O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve Tracey Valant to receive the Soil Health Conservation Kit.

Sauder is finalizing the BioBlitz schedule that will take place at the end of August. An in-person planning meeting is being scheduled for later this month for all those involved in hosting the event.

Sauder shared the January 2020 – June 2020 Outreach report. She stated January had the most website visits with them gradually decreasing month to month. The top 10 page visits were listed from January through June 2020 as well as the total website visits to date. A list of upcoming educational events was also shared.

**Sales** – Watkins said the Native Plant Sale was a success. She and Sauder had purchased extra plants to sale the day of the order pick-up, but due to the construction on Larry Power Road, the normal traffic is gone. They managed to sell all the extra plants while still making a profit. Watkins suggested possibly doing the native plant sale every other year until there is a larger consumer base. Hosting native plant educational workshops will help educate the public about native plants and their importance.

Logan Hollow Fish Farm is closing permanently. Another fishery was recommended by Logon Hollow for the surrounding SWCDs. The fishery is worried they would not be able to cover Kankakee County due to the surge of orders they will be receiving. The Board mentioned to skip our fall fish sale and only do our spring sale this upcoming year. The spring fish sale is the District's largest sale, and it would allow the new fishery time to adjust to the larger customer base.

**CD Update** – Watkins shared the renewal rate for the CD would be 0.4% APY for 12 months. The CD matured on 7/5/2020 and the Board recommended to withdraw the CD. The paperwork was signed to withdraw the CD from the bank.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

FY2021 Annual Plan of Work – Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the FY2021 Annual Plan of Work. Motion passed five to zero.

FY2021 Budget – Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the FY2021 Budget. Motion passed five to zero.

FY2021 Employee Contracts – Kirchner made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the FY2021 Employee Contracts. Motion passed five to zero.

Annual Meeting Resolutions – The AISWCD is hosting their annual meeting online this year. The board appointed O’Connor as the delegate for the e-meeting. Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to appoint O’Connor as the delegate. Motion passed five to zero.

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

**RC Report** – Nothing additional

**AC Report** – Nothing additional

**EC Report** – Nothing additional

**DC Report** – Rader stated he is busy finishing sign-ups. CRP applications are progressing slowly. He also shared there will be no new hire from the job that was posted online.

**FSA Report** – None

**Committee Reports** – None

The next regular District Board meeting is scheduled for August 10, 2020 at 7:30 am.

Wissmiller made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed five to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:23 am.