

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes December 18, 2017

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday, December 18, 2017. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 5:59 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller and Larry Kirchner, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and CED Ed Brown. Absent were Directors Dave Peters and Tim McCorkle and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Guests in attendance were Shannon Settle, Hannah Wissmiller, Kelsey O'Connor and Evan O'Connor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Drainage District Meeting, AISWCD New Quarterly Board, Executive Session and Time & Travel added to new business. Motion passed three to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of November 13, 2017 Board Meeting: O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed three to zero.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approval of Time and Travel: Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the time and travel reports. Motion passed three to zero.

Approval of Financial Report: O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion passed three to zero.

Approval of Bills: Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the paying of bills as presented. Motion passed three to zero.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI Approval – Janes stated that there have been 2 NRI's received. One is for a 33 acre community solar project. The second is a 400 acre solar project that has been tabled for now due to an issue with the EcoCat report. They will be brought back for approval when complete.

Future Solar Projects – Discussion was held on future solar projects such as what will be the guidelines for creating the solar project, maintaining and dismantling it when the time comes?

Conservation Cropping Seminar – Information is being sent to the papers regarding the seminar that is being held in January. O'Connor stated that the Farm Bureau will be paying ½ of the registration fee for Bureau members attending.

Cost Share Programs – FSA is able to send first time cover crop participants to SWCD for cost share reimbursement. There are also additional practices for CPP in the 2018 cost share program.

Storm Water Contract with EPA – Nothing.

Winter Training – Janes reported that the NRI discussion at Winter Training was the most helpful. She also stated that there is money available for training.

Educational Outreach – Janes stated that she has talked with Chad Miller and Lisa Habeeb regarding educational outreach. They stated that they only work with the 4th grade.

Website Development Payment – Janes will be making the payment for the website development.

NEW BUSINESS:

Notice of Election Petition – Petition to hold an election at the annual meeting was signed by all Directors in attendance.

Read and Sign USDA Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity Requirements – Janes stated that NRCS is asking the District to read and sign the USDA Civil Rights and Equal Opportunity requirements.

Emilie Employment & Contract – O'Connor stated that there need to be a time set for a personnel meeting regarding changing Emilie's contract to full time. Meeting was set for December 27 at 7:30 am.

Payment of AC Accrued Vacation and Personal Time – AC Settle presented 20 ½ hours of accrued vacation and personal time to be paid out. Approval was given at time of payment of bills.

2018 Meeting Schedule – AC Settle presented the 2018 meeting schedule. O'Connor asked for the time of the January to April meeting be changed to 7:30 am.

Drainage District Meeting – O'Connor stated that a date needs to be set for a Drainage District Meeting. Janes is working to schedule it sometime in March.

AISWCD New Quarterly Board – O'Connor stated that the new Executive Director hired by the AISWCD was fired after 3 days and the Administrative Coordinator quit. They are not hiring anyone to replace the AC and the Interim Executive Director, Cheryl Phillips will be leaving in late spring. Suggestion has been made to let Districts handle some of the work. They have hired someone to handle the financial work. His name is Alan Howard.

The foundation will be hiring an Executive Director who will be looking for funding options for Districts.

Champaign County has developed a program called STAR – Saving Tomorrow's Agriculture Resources. Farmers complete a survey for each farm giving them a 1-5 star rating.

Executive Session - O'Connor moved and Wissmiller seconded to move to Executive Session at 7:40 pm. Executive session ended at 7:50 pm. O'Connor stated that year-end bonuses for AC Settle and RC Janes are being offered. Both employees accepted.

Time & Travel – Discussion on reviewing time and travel was discussed at the time the reports were approved.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing new.

AC REPORT – AC Settle stated that all but one of the newsletter advertisers have sent in their renewal payment. The final advertiser has renewed but check not yet received.

DC REPORT – Not in attendance.

FSA REPORT – CED Brown stated that Janes is not to be here when the office has to be closed due to inclement weather. Notification will be made so that she does not come in if not supposed to be here. Sign up has started for the regular programs. He also stated that there are no vacancies being filled until there is a budget and staffing ceiling per state has been set. CRP has shut down for now. Brown stated that Tony Humble with Rural Development is retiring and they will not be filling his position. Anyone wanting to apply for loans through Rural Development will have to go to Ottawa.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

The next regular District Board meeting has been changed to January 8, 2018 beginning at 7:30 am.

Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm.