

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes August 13, 2019

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, August 13th, 2019 at Van Drunen Farms in Momence, Illinois. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 8:37 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Dave Peters, Jim Frogge, and Larry Kirchner, Associate Director Ed Brown, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, Conservation Assistants Crystal Sauder and Dakota Behrends, and FSA County Executive Director Shannon Camfield. Absent were Director Alan Wissmiller and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Guest in attendance was IDOA Regional Representative Joe Bybee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the agenda, with the tabling of the Personnel Policies, until our next board meeting. Motion passed four to zero.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed four to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Minutes of July 8, 2019 Board Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

Correspondence: Outreach Requests from American Association of University Women (AAUW), Kankakee Community College, and University of Illinois Extension. See Outreach Requests in New Business.

FSA REPORT – Camfield stated the acreage totals were released for Prevent Plant. In Kankakee County 26% of the acres were prevent plant corn, 4% of the acres were soybeans, with a total of around 56,000 acres for the entire county.

NRCS REPORT: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI Recommendation – Janes recommended a letter of no effect be written for NRI case #2019-006. Peters made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve a letter of no effect for NRI case #2019-006, with 4.27 acres being retained and the request to change the zoning from A-1 to residential in Bonfield. Motion passed four to zero. Janes stated there were no other NRI applications submitted for review.

PFC Cost Share – Behrends stated she is still waiting for some applicants to return their paperwork and for others to turn in their seed tags and receipts from producers. Behrends also stated that 93,750 acres of cover crops were established this year because of the Prevent Plant Cover Crop (PPCC) Initiative. Farmers have until August 15, 2019 to plant their cover crops. Behrends stated the Fall Cover for Spring Savings will have a 50,000-acre cap for the first year. Farmers will have to certify their fields to the FSA by December 15, 2019 and can begin applying online on December 15th. Behrends will be spot checking the fields in February.

Janes presented the Board with the Partners for Conservation FY2020 Average Cost List. Kircher made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the Average Cost List and to send it to the IDOA by August 30, 2019. Motion Passed four to zero.

Grants – Sauder stated that two of the Conservation Kit trainings have been completed and all the equipment has been delivered. Sauder will complete the two remaining training sessions on August 14, 2019 and work to finish the resource binders. Dates and topics for lessons being taught in the classrooms are still being set. Janes stated the Donnelley Grant review has been postponed from July 2019 to December 2019. She has a phone call scheduled on August 23, 2019 to discuss the grant. Sauder mentioned the use Fluxx Grant Seeker to manage grant information and documents in one place. All grants have been uploaded to the website.

Education & Outreach – Sauder stated that Janes and herself presented at Heldt Park Outdoor Classroom on July 3, 2019 and July 10, 2019 on the topics of Ecosystems around Kankakee County and Bugs in the Park. Sauder and Janes stated there was a Women Caring for the Land Circle, and Jen Filipiak discussed soil health and performed a SLAKE test and a rainfall stimulator. Janes was the 4H Natural Resources Judge for Kankakee County this year and discussed the 4H projects with the 4Hers, awarded state fair ribbons, and the Conservation Trophy. Behrends stated she attended the Ag Professional Breakfast and spoke on the basics of the District and the Fall Cover for Springs Savings program. She also did a radio interview on WGFA to promote the District. Sauder and Janes shared the three potential partnerships in progress. They both met with the Gretchen Charlton Art Gallery at Presence Heritage Village, University of Illinois Extension, and the Bourbonnais Elementary School District. They stated there are numerous potential projects with each of these partners but will present more final projects in the future.

Sales – Behrends stated the order forms for the Pond Stocking Sale and the Tree and Shrub Stocking sale are available. The Pond Stocking pickup is on September 13, 2019 and the Tree and Shrub pickup is October 18, 2019.

Natural Resources of Kankakee County – Sauder stated that she brought the proof of the reprint of the book to pass around. Once the final copy of the book is edited, the new file will be sent to AdCraft. 50 copies of the book will be printed and bound with a budget of \$500.

FY 2020 Budget – Janes stated a line for a Spring 2020 Intern was added, along with the addition of \$500 for printing 50 copies of the Natural Resources of Kankakee County book. Emilie stated she would like to increase the apparel budget up to \$150 per employee for a total of \$450. O'Connor made and Peters seconded a motion to approve of the FY 2020 Budget with the new additions. Motion passed four to zero.

NEW BUSINESS:

2019 Outreach Report – Janes stated they have hosted or participated in 19 separate events since January 2019 and have had approximately 1790 participants.

2019 Outreach Requests – Janes stated Kankakee Community College has asked her to teach two separate classes on Soil Health and Conservation on September 19, 2019 and October 8, 2019. The American Association of University Women reached out to Janes for her to Discuss her work and conservation at a STEM Math and Science Conference on October 5, 2019. The Scarecrow Festival at Perry Farm Park is being held September 21 – October 31, 2019. Janes stated she had another request to teach the Soils class for Master Gardeners at the University of Illinois Extension Office on February 19, 2020.

Summer Newsletter – Behrends stated she assembled a summer newsletter to be distributed to our sponsors, any outreach program, and in the office. Behrends mentioned the newsletter will be available on our website and our Facebook page for people to download a copy. Janes received permission to get a quote from AdCraft to get 50 copies of the newsletter printed in order to distribute.

Personnel Policies – Janes stated the discussion of Personnel Policies will be tabled until the September Board Meeting.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – nothing additional

AC REPORT – nothing additional

CONSERVATION ASSISTANT REPORT (SAUDER) – nothing additional

CONSERVATION ASSISTANT REPORT (BEHREND) – nothing additional

IDOA REPORT – Bybee stated there will be a reduction of 20% to 25% in allocations for Prevent Plant Cover Crop Initiative. He is waiting to hear back on if farmers can be signed up for both the Fall Cover for Spring Savings and the Prevent Plant Cover Crop Initiative at the same time.

O'Connor stated that the next meeting will be pushed back a week and held on **September 13, 2019, at 7:00 pm.**

Peters made and O'Connor seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:48 am.