

## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Minutes January 10, 2022

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, January 10, 2022. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:35 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Jim Frogge and Larry Kirchner, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and Grant Coordinator Emilie Watkins (who attended remotely). Director Ed Brown arrived at 7:45 AM. Absent were Director Alan Wissmiller and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. New District employee Matt Raymond arrived about 9:00 AM.

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

**CONSENT AGENDA:** O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed three to zero.

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of December 13, 2021 Board Meeting

#### TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** N/A

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**PFC Cost Share** – Sauder stated that the cost share money for FY2020 has all been spent and FY2021 funds of \$27,000 is now being used. By spring approximately \$11,500 will be spent leaving about \$15,500 to spend by the end of the year. FY2022 funds have not been received yet. Raymond will be taking over working with the PFC Cost Share project.

**Grants** – Watkins stated that she had had a meeting with Sauder and Raymond to discuss how the Donnelly Grant will be used. They will be logging the activities and hours used for the grant. The fund is hiring an intern to work on impact fee research Kankakee County outreach committee. Watkins stated she has a phone call scheduled with Emy Brawley next week to discuss grants, easements, and impact fees.

Watkins stated the Conservation Champions Grant is through March 2023. It is for farm trials and outreach. She is working with ISA to set up on-farm trials and is sourcing remote soil sensors. O'Connor stated that the reporting sites need to be 20 ft. tall, south facing and a base station. The plan is for 4 base stations.

**Education & Outreach** – Sauder stated that she has emailed Midland States Bank about the Earth Day Program. She is waiting on a response.

The District is partnering with Iroquois County and Ford County to hold a native plant sale. Sauder suggested the District might hold a native plant seminar in late winter, maybe held at the Shannon Bayou Center.

Sauder stated that she has been approached by Will County Farm Bureau to do a presentation on pollinators at a Teacher Workshop to be held at the Grundy County Forest Preserve on July 7<sup>th</sup> from 9-10:30 AM. O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve participation in the workshop. Motion passed four to zero.

**CREP** – Additional discussion was held on the CREP contract to be signed for the easements that are held by the District to be transferred to IDNR. Brown made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the signing of the contract. Motion passed three to zero. Kirchner abstained from the vote due to being a CREP easement holder.

**Kankakee River Basin RCPP** – Watkins stated that there is a virtual meeting on January 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 PM for interested individuals or organizations regarding the Indiana Department of Natural Resources proposal for the Kankakee River Basin RCPP.

**Heritage Solar NRI Report** – Sauder stated that she is working on the NRI report for the Heritage Solar project. It will be completed before the end of the month. A meeting to approve the NRI set as it needs to be approved before the next board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Farm Bureau Membership Renewal** – Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to renew the Farm Bureau Membership and to do it as an automatic renewal every year. Motion passed four to zero.

**Budget Updates** – Discussion was held on whether we need to do a budget update. Consensus is that no update is needed at this time.

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

**RC Report** – Nothing additional

**AC Report** – Nothing additional

**Grant Writer** – Nothing additional

**Conservation Coordinator** – Raymond introduced himself to everyone. Gave a brief overview of his history.

**DC Report** – Nothing additional

**FSA Report** – Nothing additional

**Committee Reports** – Nothing additional

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on February 14, 2022 at 7:30 AM.

Frogge made and O'Connor seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:37 AM.