

## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### **Minutes August 20, 2018**

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday August 20, 2018. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. Present were Directors Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller, Tim McCorkle, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, and Associate Director Jim Frogge.

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of July 16, 2018 Board Meeting: Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the minutes with the adjustment of the term "CPP" to "PFC". Motion passed four to zero.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Approval of Time and Travel: Wissmiller made and McCorkle seconded a motion to approve Janes' time and travel reports. Motion passed four to zero.

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** None.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**NRI Approval** – Janes stated that she is caught up with all NRI reports for solar projects, with no additional applications in process. Janes stated that she was informed that community solar projects will be able to complete the permitting process through January 2019, so it is still a possibility that NRI applications will pass through the office. Janes will be attending any ZBA meetings scheduled. The following NRI reports were reviewed:

The first **NRI #2018-37** is a 34-acre community solar project proposed by AES Distributed Energy in Ganer Township, with a low LESA score of 194.1. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the report with a position of "do not oppose". Motion passed four to zero.

The second **NRI #2018-038** is a 41.5-acre community solar project proposed by Gar Creek Solar, LLC in Kankakee Township, with a low LESA score of 184.7. O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the report with a position of "do not oppose". Motion passed four to zero.

The third **NRI #2018-039** is an 8-acre development proposed by Dan Ekhoﬀ in Yellowhead Township to build a house on his property. After review, the Board determined that the new use proposed for the property will have little to no effect on the natural resource base of the land, and a full and comprehensive NRI report is not needed. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the proposal with a "letter of no effect". Motion passed four to zero.

**SWCD Conservation Survey** – Janes stated that she and O'Connor met with Ryan Smith from Delta Institute. During the meeting, improvements to the current survey were discussed in anticipation of distributing the survey again in the summer of 2019. Smith stated that Delta Institute would be able to work with K3SWCD to create an interactive map of the survey results and improve the survey overall. O'Connor stated that Janes should work on compiling data from the current survey in a more specific format. Janes will continue compiling survey results and work towards improving the survey for following years.

**Cost Share Programs** – Janes stated that she has 4 producers signed up for cover crop cost-share, for a total of 136 acres so far. 1 well has been sealed. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve Ed Wendinger's well sealing cost-share in the amount of \$400. Motion passed four to zero. Janes will send out an email to participants of the conservation survey, promoting cost-share. Janes will continue to work on cost-share paperwork and implementation, as well as promotion.

**Summer Conference** – O'Connor gave a quick recap of Summer Conference. Janes stated that training went well, and it was a good experience. There were many partners that attended the conference, a positive observation.

**Educational Outreach** – Janes stated that she presented at JJC's Flavors of Ag event. Her presentation, which was about an hour long, discussed pollination and the importance of pollinators to everyday life and agriculture. Janes also presented on how farmers are giving back to pollinators through the establishment of CP-42 pollinator habitat.

**Educational Grant** – Janes stated that she is currently formulating ideas and seeking partners for the educational grant.

**Pond Management Workshop** – Janes stated that the Kankakee County SWCD will host a Pond Management Workshop on Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. Rob Miller will give an electrofishing demonstration, and discuss species, pond stocking, aquatic vegetation and other pond management topics. Janes is working on registration and preparation for the event.

**Soil Judging Contest** – Janes stated that she needs a location for the 2018 soil judging contest, as well as a volunteer to dig pits. The Board stated that they will help find a location for the event, and someone to dig pits.

**Warner Diefenbach Memorial** – O'Connor stated that he contacted a member of Warner's church, and they will discuss planting a tree there in honor of the long-time director. The Board is in support of planting a tree and establishing a plaque at the church in honor of Warner's service.

**CP-42 Field Guide** – Janes stated that she is working on creating a CP-42 field guide for farmers, to help them identify flowering plants in their CRP. Janes contacted Vermillion County and received their guide as a reference. Janes will put her guide on the website when it is completed.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**FY2019 Budget Amendment** – Janes stated that a line item needs to be added to the budget for \$125 for unemployment. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to amend the budget with the addition of \$125 for unemployment. Motion passed four to zero.

**Annual Plan of Work Meeting** – O'Connor stated that the APW meeting will be tabled and discussed at the next board meeting.

**QuickBooks Access** – O'Connor stated that Janes needs access to QuickBooks for day to day District operation. Janes stated that she will need a laptop, internet, and an additional copy of QuickBooks to have access in the office. The Board agreed that we will discuss the most efficient and convenient way to go about this with our AC, Linda Settle.

**Grant Writing Class** – O'Connor stated that he would like for Janes to take a grant writing course offered through Kankakee Community College. Janes will look into the details of the class and potential funding opportunities.

**Scarecrow Festival** – O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to give Janes a \$200 budget for the Bourbonnais Township Park District Scarecrow Festival. Motion passed four to zero. Janes will design a pollinator and conservation themed scarecrow to bring awareness to the community.

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

**RC REPORT** – Nothing additional.

**AC REPORT** – Nothing additional.

**DC REPORT** – None.

**FSA REPORT** – None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None.

O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to hold the next regular District Board meeting on September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:30 am. Motion passed four to zero.

The next regular District Board meeting will be September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:30 am.

O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.