

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING AGENDA

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 5:30 PM

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

1. Minutes of November 13, 2023 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report

2. Approve Time and Travel
3. Approve Financial Report
4. Bill Approval

Correspondence:

None

FSA Report

NRCS Report

Unfinished Business:

Partners for Conservation (PFC) Cost-Share
Grants
The Conservation Fund TA Agreement
Recent & Future Education & Outreach Events
Mid-term Employee Evaluations
Nominating Committee

New Business:

2024 Board Meeting Schedule
Settle Accrued Time Payout
NRI #2023-04

Reports – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

Resource Conservationist – Crystal Sauder
Administrative Coordinator – Linda Settle
Grants Coordinator & Special Projects – Emilie Watkins

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment

Date and time of next Board Meeting
January 8, 2023 at 7:30 AM

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes December 11, 2023

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, December 11, 2023. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 5:37 PM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller and Ed Brown, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Grants & Project Coordinator Emilie Watkins and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Absent was Director Jim Frogge and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Guest in attendance was Dan Dandurand.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Brown seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of some correspondence. Motion passed four to zero.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Nothing

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of November 13, 2023 Board Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Approval of Time and Travel

Approval of Financial Report

Approval of Bills

CORRESPONDENCE: AISWCD and Kankakee Extension office looking to partner with the District on their 2024 Tree Planting Initiative. The District's only role would be to find a public location to plant 25 oak trees. Extension and 4-H clubs would be responsible for planting.

OLD BUSINESS:

PFC Cost Share – Sauder stated that she is completing payment paperwork. Items are due to IDOA by December 15th for FY22 payments. 7 contracts have withdrawn from participation. FY22 funds are exhausted. FY23 funds now being used.

Grants – Sauder stated that she will be scheduling a call with Soil Scout to update the base stations for the Soil o Demand. Soil sensors are being installed at Jeff's farm for the winter.

Watkins stated that the application for a new Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly Foundation grant she submitted was accepted. Sauder made sure the grant agreement was signed and submitted. It is a 2 year grant of \$25,000 per year. The first \$25,000 will be released to the District around December 15th.

Watkins stated that GDDF sponsored Federal Funding Navigator program is connected with Great Lakes Environmental Justice TCTAC. It is an organization that provides free grant writing services. She is scheduling a phone call for after the holidays. At this time is simply exploring how the organization may be able to help our District with grant writing services. She will report back to the board.

The Conservation Fund TA Position – Sauder stated she is reviewing all RCCP contracts and working with Rader and Raymond to connect with Pembroke farmers to identify barriers to contract progress. The next meeting is December 15th.

Education & Outreach – Sauder reported that future events still be worked on is a presentation on Precision Farming in January or February. Location still to be determined. A Pond Management Workshop with Seth Love from IDNR is being planned for February 21 or 22. Willowhaven is in the works for a possible location.

Incentive Programs for Producers – Sauder stated that Fall Covers for Spring Savings requires cover crops reported to FSA prior to December 15th to be eligible. Applications then open at 8am on December 15th and runs to January 15th. SWCD's will verify a percentage of fields enrolled.

Mid-term Employee Evaluations – O'Connor stated that mid-term employee evaluations were held. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve an end of the year bonus of \$1,000 each to Crystal Sauder and Emilie Watkins and \$500 to Linda Settle. Motion passed four to zero.

Nominating Committee - Sauder reported that a nominating committee for the February 12, 2024 election will consist of Trenton Rader, Matt Raymond and Karen Boehrsen. Wissmiller, Kirchner and Brown are up for re-election. She will contact Matt Raymond NRCS, Chad Miller Farm Bureau and Karen Bohrsen to form the committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

2024 Board Meeting Schedule – Sauder presented the 2024 board meeting schedule. O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the 2024 Board Meeting schedule. Motion passed four to zero.

AC Settle Accrued Vacation and Personal Time – Approval was given to pay out AC Settle's accrued time without needing a formal vote.

NRI Approval – Sauder presented an NRI's for approval –

NRI #2023-04 is a request for rezoning from A-1 to permitted use for a Community Solar Farm. The County does not require NRI's for solar farms but this company wanted one anyway. The recommendation is a letter of no objection. Brown made and Kirchner seconded a motion to provide a letter of no objection. Motion passed four to zero.

REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC Report – Sauder stated that she will be on vacation December 20, 2023 – January 1, 2024. She will be doing some remote work during her vacation.

AC Report – Nothing additional.

Grant Writer – Nothing additional.

Conservation Coordinator – Nothing additional.

DC Report – CSP payment deadline is Friday. Maintaining RCCP.

FSA Report – The farm bill has been extended for another year. Maintaining CRP contracts.

Committee Reports –

Good of the Order – Discussion was held on changes in the budget due to the resignation of Raymond, the reduction in Operations allocation and additional grant funding.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on January 8, 2024 at 7:30 AM.

Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 6:29 PM.