

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes September 16, 2019

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday September 16, 2019. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:58 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller, Larry Kirchner and Jim Frogge, Associate Directors John Settle and Ed Brown, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, Conservation Assistants Crystal Sauder and Dakota Behrends and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Absent were Director Dave Peters and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Guest in attendance was Shannon Settle.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Farm Bureau in New Business. Motion passed four to zero.

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 August 13, 2019 Board Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

Approval of Time and Travel

Approval of Financial Report

Approval of Bills

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI Approval – None.

Partners for Conservation Cost Share – Behrends stated that there will be field visits for the oats, radishes, sorghum, clover and corn.

Grants – Sauder stated that all the kits will be delivered as of tomorrow. There will be kits available in 2020 also. Conservation kit supplies have been budgeted. There will be visits to Kennedy Middle School to work with the 3rd & 4th graders using the insect kits.

Janes stated that she has spoken to Rebecca Judd, Conservation Program Office for the Donnelly Grant. Rebecca told her that the grant is usually for large projects but she will advocate for our smaller project.

Discussion was held on other opportunities for grants. The Community works grant we would partner with Gretchen Charlton Art Gallery. Meeting with Bourbonnais Elementary School District for discussion on grant partnership and direction. Possible grants Urban Ag Conservation Grant, K-12 Pollinator Schools Grant, Greenhouse Matching Grant and Green Region Grant.

Outreach & Education – Behrends reported on the ISA Tour at OC Farms. She also talked about a possible winter workshop on Soil Health, Cover Crops etc. to explain/assist with the applications for the “Fall Cover for Spring Savings” program. The program opens December 15th, the workshop would need to be done prior to that date.

Sauder stated she is looking to work with service organizations. She has developed a list of organizations and asked for any other suggestions for others who may want to work with the District.

S.T.A.R Program – Behrends and O’Connor met with Corbett Kull who is talking with companies about making the sustainability program nationwide.

Natural Resources of Kankakee County – Sauder stated that 50 books have been printed at a cost of \$442.50. She has a possible recipients list and asked for any other suggestions. Emails will be sent to the recipients and the book will be mailed along with a letter. She is working with the ONU library to host Digital Commons, a new section on the Benner Library website. Janes stated that she and Sauder would like to go to Carbondale to do a video interview with Harold Hungerford, author of the book.

Sales – Janes stated that the fish sale had 11 orders and the tree sale is ongoing.

Certificate of Deposit - Janes stated that the first CD is maturing on 10/12/19. She suggests to renew it for 12 months at the current interest rate. Discussion was held on the best option. O’Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to open a new \$50,000 CD for 12 or 13 months now and let the other one mature. Motion passed four to zero.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of Employee Training and Events – Janes stated that there is an All Employee Meeting in Mendota coming up that she would like approval for all of them to attend. She would also like to have Behrends attend the Conservation Cropping Seminar. Board agreed.

Wi-Fi - Janes stated that the current Mi-Fi being used is not giving the office the internet service that is needed for Behrends and Sauder. Kirchner made and O’Connor seconded a motion to search for alternatives. Motion passed four to zero.

Peotone Airport – Discussion was held regarding the District’s concern regarding the Peotone Airport. Janes found the letter that had been prepared in sent in 2003. A new letter will be prepared when the project moves to the Environmental Impact Statement stage of the project.

Farm Bureau Membership – Tabled.

AISWCD Health Insurance – Janes discussed the IDOA allocation for Health Insurance. Employees have to be enrolled in the Local Government Health Plan to have the District receive funds.

Personnel Policies – Discussion was held on changes to the personnel policies. O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the changes to the policies. Motion passed four to zero.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

Cons. Asst. - Sauder – nothing additional.

Behrends – Wants pictures of each Director in the field.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – None.

FSA REPORT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – none.

The next regular District Board meeting will be October 21, 2019 at 7:30 am.

O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:14pm.