

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes August 10, 2020

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, August 10, 2020. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Jim Frogge, and Alan Wissmiller, Associate Director Ed Brown, Educational Coordinator Crystal Sauder, and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Absent were Resource Conservationist Emilie Watkins, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle, and Associate Director John Settle. Guest in attendance was Evan O'Connor.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the agenda. Motion passed four to zero.

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

SECRETARY REPORT:

Minutes of July 13, 2020 Board Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

PFC Cost Share – Sauder stated this fall we are focusing on cover crops as a District. We have around \$3,000 in cost-share funds to spend by November for FY2019, with \$10,000 for FY2020. It was discussed that fields with cover crops being used for the first time will be prioritized above other applicants.

Grants – Sauder stated there are two field days happening this month. An Ag Retailer Field Day is taking place on August 13th and the Benoit Aerial Field Day is taking place on August 25th.

Sauder stated Watkins and herself met with Jim Hanley and Chris LaRocque with the Village of Manteno, Jason Bleich with US Fish and Wildlife, and Dallas Glazik with Pheasants Forever at Rock Creek Estates the previous week to discuss the habitat project. The Village of Manteno will be pursuing a wetland habitat project in the Rock Creek Estates. Sauder will be investigating grants for walking paths and signage for the project. The Village of Manteno will begin prepping the site this week to prepare for the seeding this upcoming winter.

Sauder stated the surveys at Hawkins Park are continuing. She is working with Trevor Edmonson to order the trees and shrubs and arrange a pick-up date. Sauder applied for and received the Virtual Engagement Grant from the Vital Lands Illinois Foundation. The grant agreement was signed and will be sent to the Vital Lands Illinois Foundation.

Education & Outreach – The BioBlitz will still be taking place at Perry Farm Park. Sauder said she is still waiting to hear back from the Wildlife Discovery Center if they are doing an animal presentation at the event. The schedule for the BioBlitz has been finalized and Sauder has purchased supplies for the educational activities.

Sauder said Tracey Valant from Bishop McNamara Catholic School accepted the Soil Health Conservation Kit. She will be working with Tracey to schedule training and upcoming schoolyear presentations. Sauder is working on ordering supplies for the Soil Health Conservation Kit.

Sales – Sauder stated they will be using Keystone Hatcheries for the fish sale this fall due to the previous fishery closing. She is working to schedule the pick-up date. Tree sale orders are due October 7th with a pick-up date scheduled for October 16th.

CD Update – Sauder shared CD #2 was withdrawn at the beginning of this month with the next CD maturing on September 26th. O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to close the remaining CD and roll it into our checking. Motion passed four to zero.

NEW BUSINESS:

NRI Approval – Sauder recommended a letter of no effect to be written for NRI case #2020-02. O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve a letter of no effect for NRI case #2020-02, a request to continue the existing use of the property for farm-to-table dining events and other agritourism activities in Grant Park.

Employee Training – Sauder stated Watkins and herself found an online Quickbooks course that starts mid-September they would like to sign up for. It was also mentioned that there is an online course through AgLearn for SWCD employees to drive the NRCS truck. If staff chooses to drive their personal vehicles for NRCS work instead of the NRCS truck, they will be paid half the mileage rate they normally receive.

REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC Report – Nothing additional

AC Report – Nothing additional

EC Report – Nothing additional

DC Report – Rader stated he is busy writing contracts.

FSA Report – None

Committee Reports – None

The next regular District Board meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 am.