

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes April 8, 2019

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday April 8, 2019. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:42 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller, Larry Kirchner and Jim Frogge, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, District Conservationist Trenton Rader, and Intern Crystal Sauder. Absent was Director Dave Peters. Guest in attendance was Tony Horne.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Annual Plan of Work under Old Business and Employment under New Business. Motion passed four to zero.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of March 11, 2019 Board Meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI Approval – Janes recommended a letter of no effect be written for NRI case #2019-002. O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve a letter of no effect for NRI case #2019-002. Motion passed four to zero. Janes stated that there were no other NRI applications submitted for review.

Cost-Share – No update.

Grants – Janes stated that the Community Works Grant application was pulled due to an emergency with Hawkins Park being used for a summer soccer league. Janes also stated that K3SWCD applied for the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelley Foundation grant with the AISWCD Foundation to expand a smaller portion of the Hawkins Park prairie (not being used by the league) and plant native trees and shrubs. Janes proposed that the District cover the cost of the prairie expansion and educational outreach with Herscher High School and a local elementary school. Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve a \$650 budget for the Hawkins Park prairie expansion and educational outreach. Motion passed four to zero.

Outreach & Education – Janes gave a recap on a few of the District events that took place since the last meeting. Two native plant seminars were held through a partnership between the Illinois Native Plant Society, K3SWCD, and U of I Extension. Over 60 people attended the two events. Farm Bureau's annual Kids Day at the Farm was a success. K3SWCD manned two

tables, presenting a soil health activity and water quality activity. Janes passed out District information and Conservation Kit applications to educators at the event. Janes stated that the District is going to reach out to the Bourbonnais Township Park District to inquire about any educational needs, as well as present some District programs that may be of interest. An IDOT roadside habitat/butterfly and moth rearing workshop is being organized by the District and the Illinois Native Plant Society. Janes is also in contact with Heldt Park Outdoor Classroom to organize some activities during the summer.

Lady Landowner Workshop – Janes is meeting with Holly Froning, with U of I Extension and KVFPD, to discuss hosting the event at the Forest Preserve District Office. Janes is in communication with Jennifer Filipiak of American Farmland Trust to confirm a date and move forward with organizing the program.

Soil Health Field Day – Janes stated that the District is working on organizing a soil health field day. She will reach out to the Soil Health Partnership to see if they would partner with K3SWCD to host a field day.

Kankakee River Basin Commission (KRBC) – None.

S.T.A.R. Program – Sauder stated that the agreement between Champaign County and Kankakee County has been finalized. K3SWCD can now promote and carry out the S.T.A.R. Program. Janes is the “reviewer” for the program. 1 participant has filled out a field form, and Sauder is working on compiling an aggregated report to send to Bruce Hendrickson. Signage is optional and can be purchased from Champaign County for \$10 apiece.

Natural Resources of Kankakee County – Sauder and O’Connor stated that they have received verbal permission from Harold Hungerford to reprint and distribute *The Natural Resources of Kankakee County* manual from 1963. Sauder met with Judson Strain, reference librarian at ONU, to discuss copyright issues. Strain suggested obtaining written permission from Hungerford, and then reprinting the books with a permission statement at the bottom of each page. Janes and Sauder will work on obtaining this permission. O’Connor is discussing potential partnership with Van Drunen Farms to help reprint and distribute the book.

Annual Plan of Work – The FY2020 APW will be tweaked and approved at the May board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Meeting – An FY2020 budget meeting and employee evaluation has been scheduled for June 3rd at 8 am.

Certificate of Deposit – O’Connor, Kirchner, and Janes will meet sometime next week to set up a Certificate of Deposit with the Bank of Bourbonnais.

Employment – The Board discussed employment for the remainder of the 2019 calendar year. Janes stated that she will seek out temporary summer help to distribute the District conservation survey from May-July. Sauder’s employment was discussed. Kirchner made and O’Connor seconded a motion to extend Sauder’s employment through December, raising her pay to

\$13.50 an hour and her hours to no more than 24 hours/week. Motion passed four to zero. The Board will meet to reevaluate Sauder's employment at the end of August.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – Rader stated that EQIP application are being submitted, and that CSP was just announced. There is a May cutoff for the program.

FSA REPORT – None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

The next regular District Board meeting will be May 13, 2019 at 7:30 am.

O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 am.