

## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Minutes June 18, 2018

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday June 18, 2018. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller and Tim McCorkle, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, District Intern Katlyn Post, District Conservationist Trenton Rader and Associate Director Jim Frogge.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Budget Meeting, Annual Plan of Work Meeting and Employee Evaluation under New Business, the removal of Newsletter under New Business, and the removal of Heldt Park Nature Class under Old Business. Motion passed four to zero.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of May 14, 2018 Board Meeting: Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed four to zero.

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

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

Approval of Bills: Wissmiller made and Kirchner 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 still in the process of working on several NRIs for solar projects. She has received applications for three additional proposed solar projects from Cypress Creek Renewables. Janes completed four NRI reports since the last meeting, up for approval today. Janes will be attending a ZBA meeting on June 25<sup>th</sup>, as well as any additional ZBA meetings scheduled.

The first **NRI #2018-028** is an 80.81-acre community solar project proposed by Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. in Pilot Township, with a LESA score of 234.6. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to *not support* the proposed development based on the high LESA score. Motion passed four to zero.

*Note: Although the LESA score was high due to the distance from the nearest municipality, the project area was on unproductive ground and, based on agricultural viability, an acceptable location for a solar development. It is clear that the LESA system needs to be updated, and it will be added to the APW.*

The second **NRI #2018-029** is a 160-acre community solar project proposed by Borrego Solar Systems, Inc. in Rockville Township, with a LESA score of 232.6. McCorkle made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to *not support* the proposed development based on the high LESA score. Motion passed four to zero.

The third **NRI #2018-030** is a 17.43-acre community solar project proposed by Forefront Power (FFP IL Community Solar, LLC) in St. Anne Township, with a LESA score of 157.8. O'Connor

made and Kirchner seconded a motion to *not oppose* the proposed development based on the low LESA score. Motion passed four to zero.

The fourth NRI #2018-031 is a 21-acre community solar project proposed by Solar Provider Group in Otto Township, with a LESA score of 198. Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to *not oppose* the proposed development based on the low LESA score. Motion passed four to zero.

**SWCD Conservation Survey** – Post stated that she has distributed over 50 surveys to date, and they are well received. Post is working on compiling data into an Excel spreadsheet and looking at trends based on stream code (to be translated into watershed) such as cover crop use, N & P application and NRCS practice/program participation.

**2018 Transect Survey** – Post conducted the 2018 Transect Survey with Joe Bybee at the end of May. The results showed T Levels consistent with previous years, a reduction in no till for both corn and soybeans, an increase in reduced till for both corn and soybeans, and a reduction in conventional till soybeans. Janes stated that since 2015, there has been a large reduction in mulch till for corn and an increase in conventional till for corn, as well as a reduction in no till soybeans and an increase in reduced till for soybeans.

**Cost Share Programs** – Janes is currently working on cost-share programs for well sealing and cover crops, with plans to start advertising in July.

**Summer Conference** – Summer Conference is taking place July 23-24 in Springfield. O'Connor and Janes will attend, with the option for Post to attend if scheduling allows. Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to cover the cost of Post's Summer Conference registration fee, as well as sign a check for the total registration fee. Motion passed four to zero.

**Monarch Survey** – Janes stated that she has identified seven potential CRP survey sites for the Illinois Natural History Survey's Monarch research. Janes will be choosing several of the sites to visit monthly for the remainder of the summer. At each site, Janes will set up a transect and gather data on native flowering plant species, milkweed species, Monarch presence and oviposition. She may also set up bee sampling stations, and conduct bird point counts. The information will be sent to U of I and compiled into a report to be published by the Illinois Natural History Survey.

**RiverWatch** – Janes stated that on Friday, June 15<sup>th</sup> she and Post learned RiverWatch sampling methodology with Kevin Culver of AQUA. Janes and Post visited three sites (Rock Creek, Davis Creek and the Kankakee River) to take samples of macroinvertebrate species. On June 29<sup>th</sup> they will assist Culver in the identification of the invertebrates. RiverWatch is a program that identifies the health of a river or stream based upon the abundance and diversity of macroinvertebrate species. RiverWatch may be used as an educational tool, as well as a tool to aid in the assessment of stream and river health in the county.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Jim Frogge Associate Director** – O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to appoint Jim Frogge as an associate director, with all benefits that accompany the title. Motion passed four to zero.

**Levi Gambill Contract Work** – Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve Gambill's contract to work no more than 15 hours per week at \$20 per hour through the end of July, or until the GIS and NRI updates are complete. Motion passed four to zero.

**Flavors of Ag @ JJC** – Janes stated that she had been contacted by Joliet Junior College to present at the Flavors of Ag event for a second time. Janes accepted the invitation, and will be working on a presentation to give at the event.

**Budget Meeting** – The FY2019 budget needs to be completed. The board will be meeting on Tuesday, June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am to hold a budget meeting. The budget will be approved at the next board meeting in July.

**Annual Plan of Work Meeting** – An APW meeting will be scheduled at the July meeting, to be completed by the end of that month.

**Employee Evaluation Meeting** – An employee evaluation meeting for Janes will take place the same day as the budget meeting, on June 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am.

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

**RC REPORT** – Nothing additional.

**AC REPORT** – Nothing additional.

**DC REPORT** – CRP has been reopened for certain practices, such as filter strips and grassed waterways. Pollinator is not on the list.

**FSA REPORT** – None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS** – None.

O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to hold the next regular District Board meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 7:30 am. Motion passed four to zero.

The next regular District Board meeting will be July 9<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 9:10 am.