

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes September 10, 2018

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday September 10, 2018. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:35 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, and Alan Wissmiller, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, Associate Director Jim Frogge, and guests Regional Representative Joe Bybee and FSA County Executive Director Ed Brown.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the agenda as written. Motion passed three to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of August 20, 2018 Board Meeting: Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the minutes with the addition of QuickBooks to Old Business and Comp Time to New Business. Motion passed three to zero.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approval of Time and Travel: O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve time and travel reports. Motion passed three to zero.

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

Approval of Bills: Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the paying of bills as presented. Motion passed three to zero.

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI – Janes stated that as of today, she is caught up with all NRI reports.

SWCD Conservation Survey – Janes stated that she is still speaking with Ryan Smith from Delta Institute about possible grants and/or funds available to help create an interactive map and improve the survey for 2019. Data from the survey is being utilized to help target areas in the county for conservation.

Cost-Share Programs – Janes stated that she has 4 producers signed up for cover crop cost-share, for a total of 148 acres so far. 1 well has been sealed. Janes will continue to work on cost-share paperwork and implementation.

Bybee stated that FY2019 funding is available but has not yet been released. We can anticipate its release sometime this month. We are anticipating a large increase in PFC funding for FY2019.

Educational Outreach & Grant – Janes stated that she is currently formulating ideas and seeking partners for the educational grant. Janes is meeting with the executive director of the Kankakee Community Foundation on Thursday to discuss possible summer programs. Janes and Frogge will meet in the following weeks to get the educational grant rolling.

Pond Management Workshop – Janes stated that the Kankakee County SWCD hosted a Pond Management Workshop on Thursday, September 6th at 6pm. Rob Miller gave an electrofishing demonstration, and discussed species, pond stocking, aquatic vegetation and other pond management topics. Approximately 25 people attended, and the event was received well. Attendees asked many questions following the demonstration, and the event ended at 8pm.

Soil Judging Contest – Janes stated that she needs a location for the 2018 soil judging contest, as well as a volunteer to dig pits. O'Connor stated that he has a location in mind. O'Connor will follow up with Janes about a location and digging the pits.

Warner Diefenbach Memorial – Nothing new.

Scarecrow Festival – Janes is currently working on designing a pollinator and conservation themed scarecrow to bring awareness to the community.

Grant Writing Class – Janes stated that she was awarded grant money from the IDOA to take the Grant Writing Course at KCC. Janes will register for the six-week online course and be reimbursed after completion.

QuickBooks Access – O'Connor stated that he has sent an email to AC, Linda Settle, about moving forward with QuickBooks access.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Plan of Work Meeting – O'Connor stated that the Board will not be able to hold an official APW meeting. O'Connor made edits to the current APW and shared them with the board. Janes will edit the document, send it to the board for revision, and send the final copy to the IDOA on October 15th. Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to revise the current APW and approve with edits. Motion passed three to zero.

Comp Time – O'Connor stated that Janes needs to look up the official regulations for comp time in the USDL's Fair Labor Standards Act. Janes will also email Thad at Iroquois County SWCD to learn more about their comp time policy. This will be revisited at the next meeting.

KRBC Meetings – Janes stated that she will be attending KRBC meetings, which take place every other month.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – None.

FSA REPORT – Brown stated that there is a new program, the Market Facilitation Program (MFP), that was announced. The program addresses tariffs and their impacts on agriculture.

Brown stated that there are two informational meetings that producers may attend: this Friday, September 14th, at KCC at 8am and another in Manteno on the 18th at 7pm.

IDOA REPORT – Bybee stated that the dates for the 2019 conservation cropping seminar have been set.

Bybee stated that there are new cost-share guidelines that have been released. The FY2019 Partners for Conservation guidelines address changes to the way that conservation practices will be cost-shared and reimbursed. Cover crops and well sealing have seen an increase in cost-share reimbursement. There are also new programs available, like the establishment of monarch habitat. Bybee and Janes will keep in touch about cost-share details for FY2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

O'Connor stated that it is unlikely that there will be an October meeting.

O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 am.