

## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### Minutes August 8, 2022

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, August 8, 2022. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Jim Frogge, Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Grants & Special Projects Coordinator Emilie Watkins (via phone), Conservation Coordinator Matt Raymond, and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Absent were Director Ed Brown and District Conservationist Trenton Rader.

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

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

#### SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of July 11, 2022 Board Meeting

#### TRERASURER'S REPORT:

Approval of Time and Travel

Approval of Financial Report

Approval of Bills

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Sauder stated she had received an invitation from the Farm Bureau to the Legislative Breakfast on August 25<sup>th</sup>. She was inquiring if the staff should attend. O'Connor stated that he will be one of the speakers. Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion for the staff to attend with an objective. Motion passed four to zero.

#### OLD BUSINESS:

**PFC Cost Share** – Raymond stated that the 2<sup>nd</sup> cost share enrollment is complete. All of FY22 funds have been allocated and he has requested additional funds for the remaining applicants.

**Grants** – Raymond stated that the first tailgate talk was held for the Conservation Champions grant. There were 20 attendees and positive reviews were given. Summer series events are scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup>, August 23<sup>rd</sup> and September 1<sup>st</sup> and a fall KRMA conservation field day also being planned. Winter series events for January, February and March are being planned.

O'Connor stated that in early September he will be hosting a meeting with the CEO of PepsiCo and some local farmers on questions regarding practices they use.

Watkins stated that she has submitted an updated grant budget and letter for the Compeer Financial "MORE for Ag" grant. She has corresponded with the grant officer and everything is in review. The final request is for \$48,900.

Watkins stated that the year one progress report has been submitted for the Gaylord and Dorothy Donnelly grant. She will be scheduling a follow up phone call.

Watkins also stated that she is continuing to work with the Pembroke partners to schedule soil health events and to execute soil testing.

**Education & Outreach** – Sauder stated that she had 4 kids attend the Heldt Park Summer Program – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle and Repurpose on August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Sauder stated that the pond management workshop is set for September 9<sup>th</sup> and the BioBlitz with Bourbonnais Township Park District and ONU is September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.

Sauder also stated that the Livingston County Ag Expo is September 28<sup>th</sup>. It will be for 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders and the District has been asked if we wanted to present. Consensus is for Sauder and Raymond to participate.

Raymond stated that is working on the Conservation Planner Training. He completed the Cultural Resources online training July 12<sup>th</sup> and will be doing the field training on August 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Raymond and Sauder attended the AISWCD Summer Conference & Annual Meeting in July.

**FY22 Outreach Report** – Sauder shared the outreach report for FY22. There were 2,312 website visits and 430 Facebook followers.

**District Sales** – Sauder stated the fall sales have been set. The fish sale orders are due September 12<sup>th</sup> with pickup being October 7<sup>th</sup> and the tree sale orders are due September 30<sup>th</sup> with pickup being October 20<sup>th</sup>.

**AC Laptop** – Sauder stated that the laptop that AC Settle uses had to be replaced. The old one quit connecting to the Wi-Fi and was no longer receiving program updates due to the age of the laptop. After email approval from the Directors was received, a new Lenovo Yoga laptop was purchased from Best Buy for \$699.00 and then taken to Puter Pros to have everything transferred over. Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the past purchase of the laptop for AC Settle. Motion passed four to zero.

As an addendum to the laptop purchase Kirchner stated that the direct deposit option with Bank of Bourbonnais is not going to be a viable option. AC Settle and Kirchner had both started the process of setting up for it but it isn't as easy as they had made it sound. AC Settle will be doing some more inquiring into different options.

**2023 Internship** – Watkins stated that she is creating a hiring process and plan for a 2023 Intern. She is working with Raymond to determine workload and timeframe. The primary focus of the internship will be to assist Raymond with continuing and expanding the soil sensor project. Other responsibilities will include assisting with ag programs and field work, event planning and facilitation, office work, website, social media as needed.

**Rock Creek Watershed Plan** – Watkins stated that in October 2021 the District submitted a letter of support for the EPA Sec 319 watershed planning grant. The grant was not submitted then and the plan is to submit it in 2022. Sauder was contacted by Will County regarding the Will County Stormwater Management Planning Committee Meeting. They have named the District as a stakeholder and listed to provide in-kind. Watkins stated that she has reached out for clarification and reminded them that Board approval would be needed. Stakeholder information in coming months.

**NRI Reports** – Sauder presented NRI reports for approval –

NRI #2022-10 – Heritage FS is requesting a special use permit to construct a new shop, update fertilizer/chemical operations and construct small retention pond. Recommendation is to provide a letter of support. O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to provide a letter of support. Motion passed four to zero.

NRI #2022-11 – A request for a special use permit to construct a 5MWac community solar farm on property owned by Dolores O'Connor. Recommendation is to provide a letter of support. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to provide a letter of support. Motion passed four to zero.

NRI #2022-12 - A request for a special use permit to construct a 5MWac community solar farm on property owned by The Jackson Family Trust. Recommendation is to provide a letter of non-support. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to provide a letter of non-support. Motion passed four to zero.

#### **REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary**

**RC Report** – Sauder stated that she will be out of the office August 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>. Some remote work possible.

**AC Report** – Nothing additional

**Grant Writer** – Watkins will be off November 2 – 8 with some remote work possible

**Conservation Coordinator** – Nothing additional

**DC Report** – Sauder stated that Rader is out of the office.

**FSA Report** – Nothing additional

**Committee Reports** – Nothing additional.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on Monday, September 12, 2022 at 7:00 PM. Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:32 AM.