

MAY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Monday, May 11, 2026 at 7:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

1. Minutes of April 13, 2026 Board Meeting

Treasurer's Report

2. Approve Time and Travel
3. Approve Financial Report
4. Bill Approval

Correspondence: None

FSA Report

NRCS Report

Unfinished Business:

Agriculture Programs
Grants
Events
Sales
Conservation Planner Training

New Business:

NRI #2026-03
NRI #2026-04
FY27 APW & Budget Planning
FY27 Employee Evaluations
Kankakee County Prescribed Burn Association

Reports – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

Resource Conservationist – Crystal Sauder
Administrative Coordinator – Linda Settle
Administrative Coordinator – Monica Hernandez
Grants & Special Projects – Emilie Watkins

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment

Date and time of next Board Meeting
June 8, 2026 at 7:30 AM

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes May 11, 2026

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday May 11, 2026. Vice Chairman Jim Frogge called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. Present were Directors Larry Kirchner, Jim Frogge and Ed Brown, Associate Directors John Settle and Adam Wagner, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Administrative Coordinator Monica Hernandez, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and Soil Conservationist Matt Raymond. Absent were Directors Jeff O'Connor and Alan Wissmiller, Associate Director Cody Rollins, Grants and Project Coordinator Emilie Watkins and District Conservationist Trenton Rader.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Kirchner made and Brown seconded a motion to approve the agenda after moving the NRI approval and the Kankakee County Prescribed Burn Association to the beginning of the meeting. Motion passed three to zero.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CONSENT AGENDA: Kirchner made and Brown seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented. Motion passed three to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of April 13, 2026 Board Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

Agriculture Programs – CRPG - Sauder reported that she has submitted 27 CPRG contracts to IDOA. Next step for applicants will be to complete STAR forms for every field entered. She is waiting on IDOA to send out payment authorizations through Amplifund.

Cost Share – Sauder reported that once fields are planted she will submit the remaining strip-till contracts using the FY25 funds. She also has a well-sealing project needing approval. Kirchner made and Brown seconded a motion to approve the well-sealing project. Motion passed three to zero.

Grants – SWCD Operations Grant – Sauder reported that IDOA rejected our original grant budget and stated we must resubmit to match the \$40,000 maximum. She has revised the budget using the Resource Conservationist salary as the expense being budgeted. The revised budget is due 5/11 at 4 pm. Kirchner made and Brown seconded a motion to approve the revised operations grant for \$40,000 and submit it to IDOA. Motion passed three to zero.

RCPP Technical Assistance – Sauder stated that there was an RCPP meeting on 4/28 with O'Connor, Frogge, Kirchner, Wagner, Murphy and SWCD staff. The RCPP and agreement to provide technical assistance was discussed. Watkins will provide a business plan and agreement documents for review by the end of the week.

Events – June Habitat Tour – Hernandez reported that the habitat tour is not happening at this time.

Sales – Hernandez reported that the fish sale profit was \$4,084.50 and the tree sale profit was \$1,195.05.

Conservation Planner Training – Sauder reported that she will be at Soil Health & Sustainability for Field Staff training in Champaign May 12-14.

NEW BUSINESS:

NRI #2026-03 – Sauder stated that the NRI needing approval is for rezoning of 6.5 acres on E 6000S Rd, St. Anne from A1 to RE dividing the homestead from existing parcel to allow for sale. Her recommendation is to send a letter of no objection due to a low LESA score. Kirchner made and Brown seconded a motion to follow the recommendation of sending a letter of no objection. Motion passed three to zero.

NRI #2026-04 – Sauder stated that the NRI needing approval is for rezoning of 15 acres on S 4500E Rd, Aroma Park from A1 to RE to separate from larger parcel to sell and build a house on. Her recommendation is to send a letter of no objection due to a low LESA score. Kirchner made and Brown seconded a motion to follow the recommendation of sending a letter of no objection. Motion passed three to zero.

FY27 APW & Budget Planning – Sauder stated that a meeting to discuss the FY27 APW, Budget and complete employee evaluations needs to be set. Decision was made to set May 27th or June 3rd at 7:30 AM. Text will be sent when definite date is decided.

Kankakee Co. Prescribed Burn Association – Sauder reported that there is interest in creating a burn association in Kankakee County. O'Connor, Wagner and Sauder attended a TEAMS meeting to discuss the plans. The group is looking for a physical address for mail. Discussion was held and consensus is we are not interested in using the District address. Wagner stated there will be a June 17th meeting at Willowhaven for anyone interested.

REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC Report – Sauder stated she will be on vacation May 29–June 1 and July 2–9.
Summer Conference will be July 12-15 which will require a change in the July meeting date

AC Report – Nothing additional

Grant Writer – Nothing additional

NRCS Report – Soil Conservationist Raymond stated that they are in the middle of EQIP obligations. Deadline for signed contracts is May 15th. There are 9 Kankakee County applicants and 3 Will County. There are 12 RCCP contracts, 8 for Kankakee County and 4 for Will County. There are 44 CSP applicants with ranking due June 12th.

FSA Report – AC Hernandez shared the report from CED Murphy. FSA Base Acre updates will add 30 million base acres across the county to farms with planting history of a covered commodity from 2019-2023. Base acre update letters should begin to go out to landowners after May 15th. Landowners will have 90 days to opt out of receiving the additional base acres, no action needed to “opt in”.

The Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), which will assist with debris clean up for producers affected by the March 10, 2026 tornado, will begin sign-up on May 11th and run through July 10th. Those interested in applying should contact the FSA office.

Committee Reports –

Good of the Order – Wagner talked about the meeting with Aqua that was held at O’Connor’s farm. Discussion was regarding the nitrates in water from the Iroquois River.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on June 8, 2026 at 7:30 AM.

Frogge made and Kirchner seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:55 AM.