

MARCH BOARD MEETING AGENDA

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Monday, March 13, 2023 at 7:30 AM

Reorganization of the Board –

- Directors Election of Officers
- Appointment of Associate Directors
- Restructure of Committees

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

1. Minutes of February 9, 2023 Board Meeting
2. Minutes of March 6, 2023 Special Meeting

Treasurer's Report

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

Correspondence: None

FSA Report

NRCS Report

Unfinished Business:

- Partners for Conservation (PFC) Cost-Share Grants
- Education & Outreach
- Sales
- IDOA Update

New Business:

- NRI #2023-01
- Jackie Haas Meeting Update

Reports – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

- Resource Conservationist – Crystal Sauder
- Administrative Coordinator – Linda Settle
- Grants Coordinator & Special Projects – Emilie Watkins
- Conservation Coordinator – Matt Raymond
- Outreach Intern – Halie Kohl

Adjournment

Date and time of next Board Meeting
April 10, 2023 at 7:30 AM

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes March 13, 2023

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:41 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Jim Frogge, Alan Wissmiller and Ed Brown, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Conservation Coordinator Matt Raymond, Outreach Intern Halie Kohl, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Absent were Director Larry Kirchner and Grants & Special Projects Coordinator Emilie Watkins.

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

REORGANIZATION OF BOARD:

Election of Officers: O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the slate of officers to remain the same, which are as follows - O'Connor Chairman, Frogge Vice Chairman, Kirchner Treasurer and Wissmiller Secretary. Motion passed four to zero.

Appointment of Associate Directors: O'Connor made and Brown seconded a motion to appoint John Settle as Associate Director. Motion passed four to zero.

Restructure of Committees: O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to keep the current committee assignments. 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 February 13, 2023 Board Meeting
Minutes of March 6, 2023 Special Meeting via Zoom

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Nothing

OLD BUSINESS:

PFC Cost Share – Raymond stated that the FY23 cost share guidelines have been released. Reimbursement rate has been set at 75% statewide. It includes cover crops, strip/no-till, critical area planting and pollinator. Wissmiller made and Brown seconded a motion to approve and sign the FY23 Cost Share Practice Component list presented. Motion passed four to zero.

Raymond stated that he had 16 applications from the February 2023 enrollment period. There is \$18,390.06 remaining of the FY22 funds to be spent. Discussion was held regarding the additional 20 ranking points that was being used and whether they should continue being used or not. Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to drop the additional 20 ranking points. Motion passed four to zero.

Raymond will review the current applications, re-ranking them without the additional 20 ranking points and bring it back to the board for approval.

Grants – Sauder stated that the NWF grant is finished at the end of March. The final report is being worked on.

Sauder also stated that the Donnelly grant final report is due July 31, 2023 and the Compeer grant began January 1, 2023 and runs until December 31, 2024.

All grant activities are to be reported on the activity logs.

Ag Events – Sauder stated that she currently has 58 people registered for the Drainage District meeting on March 23rd.

Raymond stated that the Conservation Bus tour is set for April 4th and boarding of the bus will take place in Downtown Kankakee at the parking lot across from the new Metro bus terminal. The tour will be from 7:45AM – 12:30PM including lunch in Irwin and the goal is to have about 45 people participating.

Education & Outreach – Sauder stated she will be doing a Master Gardeners presentation on March 13th at 10 AM at the Extension office.

Sauder also stated Kids Day at the Farm will be March 15th & 16th with the District doing only one presentation and she will also be speaking to a Soils class at KCC on March 30th.

Sales – Sauder stated that the sales are ongoing. Fish sale pickup is April 20th at 11AM and Tree sale pickup is April 14th 8AM – 4PM.

IDOA Update – Sauder stated that the FY23 ICQ has been submitted and approved. Grant agreements are being worked on.

NEW BUSINESS:

NRI-2023-01 – Sauder presented NRI 2023-01 with a recommendation to send a letter of no objection. The land owners are swapping land and rezoning. O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to accept the staff recommendation of sending a letter of no objection. Motion passed four to zero.

Sauder also stated that she will be talking to Chad Miller from the Farm Bureau and then Delbert Skimmerhorn from the County Planning Department regarding the need for SWCD's to continue doing NRI's for wind and solar farms.

Jackie Haas Meeting Update – Sauder stated she and O'Connor attended a meeting held by State Representative Jackie Haas. They mentioned a few bills to her to make her aware of them.

REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC Report – Nothing additional

AC Report – Nothing additional

Grant Writer – Nothing additional

Conservation Coordinator – Nothing additional

DC Report – Rader stated that the New Lenox office is fully staffed. Nothing new in staffing at Kankakee. He also stated that there is more funding than ever available with the Inflation Reduction Act.

FSA Report – Nothing from Shannon. Brown reported that Karen might be going to California as part of a Jump Team that she has been approved for.

Committee Reports –

Annual Plan of Work Committee meeting was set for March 21, 2023 at 7:30 AM.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on April 10, 2023 at 7:30 AM.

Wissmiller made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 AM.