

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING AGENDA

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Monday, February 13, 2023 at 7:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

1. Minutes of January 9, 2023 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:

Partners for Conservation (PFC) Cost-Share
Grants
Education & Outreach
ARC GIS Software
Sales
CD

New Business:

NWF Retreat
IDOA Updates
Bill 4412
Email Advertisements

Reports – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

Resource Conservationist – Crystal Sauder
Administrative Coordinator – Linda Settle
Grants Coordinator & Special Projects – Emilie Watkins (*on Maternity Leave*)
Conservation Coordinator – Matt Raymond
Outreach Intern – Halie Kohl

Adjournment

Date and time of next Board Meeting
March 13, 2023 at 7:00 PM

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes February 13, 2023

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, February 13, 2023. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:50 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Alan Wissmiller and Ed Brown, Associate Director John Settle, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Conservation Coordinator Matt Raymond, Outreach Intern Halie Kohl, and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Absent were Director Jim Frogge, Grants & Special Projects Coordinator Emilie Watkins and District Conservationist Trenton Rader.

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

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of January 9, 2023 Board Meeting

TRERASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Sauder stated that she had received a request from Paul Vicari asking for a letter of recommendation as he is applying for the Soil Conservationist position at LaPorte SWCD in Indiana. He was a recipient of the 2009 Friend of the District. He had worked closely with Rich Howell from 2006-2009. Discussion was held and consensus is that the District will not write a letter but contact information for Rich will be given to Paul.

OLD BUSINESS:

PFC Cost Share – Raymond stated that 2022 applications have been processed and site visits are complete. 2023 enrollment is open February 1st to March 1st.

Grants – Sauder reported that the staff is working on completing deliverables and the final report is due March 31st for the NWF grant. The final report is due July 31, 2023 for the Donnelly grant. The Compeer grant runs from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. All grants activities are to be reported in the Activity Log for staff.

Raymond stated the next Ag event will be February 23rd at the Will Co. Fairgrounds Atrium. It will be about Cover Crop Termination. March 23rd will be the Drainage District meeting to be held at the

Quality Inn. IADD is promoting the meeting. April 4th will be the Conservation Bus Tour. O'Connor recommended that events be recorded.

Education & Outreach – Sauder shared she will be doing a Master Gardeners presentation on March 13th and Kids Day at the Farm will be March 15th & 16th. The District will only be doing one presentation, it will be on Soils.

ArcGIS Software – Sauder shared pricing information regarding ArcGIS software for the District. She stated that with the new computer that NRCS provided for the District, she was able to get the ArcGIS downloaded and it is working much better. Consensus is to continue with using what she currently uses.

Sales - Sauder reported that the fish sale pickup is April 20th at 11 AM and the tree sale pickup is April 14th from 8AM-4PM.

CD Rates – Sauder reported that she had met Kirchner at the Bank of Bourbonnais to open a \$50,000 CD at 4.10% for 9 months. She has paperwork for the rest of the Directors to sign and will need to make copies of their driver's licenses to give to the bank.

NEW BUSINESS:

NWF Retreat – Sauder stated an invitation for her and Raymond to the Conservation Champions Wrap up Retreat had been received. It is to be the week of March 20th, date and location to be determined. All travel, lodging and meals are covered by NWF. Discussion was held and it was recommended that Raymond go if it works with his schedule.

IDOA Updates – FY23 Funds and Cost-Share funds should be released soon.

Bill 4412 – Sauder reported that the Governor signed bill 4412 on January 27, 2023. This bill effectively takes away the ability of SWCD's to complete NRI's for wind farms or solar farms. The new law overpowers any previous laws.

Email Advertisements – Sauder stated that the District currently uses Mail Chimp for sending out mass emails or advertisements of events. Their free marketing plan is changing as of March 10th. They will be limiting the amount of contacts to 500 and the number of emails that can be sent to 1,000. We currently have 700 contacts. She presented two plans, one through Mail Chimp and one through Wix. Plan A through Mail Chimp is \$26.50 month for 1,500 contacts and 15,000 emails that can be sent. Plan B through Wix is \$24.00 month for 5,000 emails per month that can be sent. The recommendation from Sauder is to do Plan A for simplicity. Wissmiller made and Kirchner seconded a motion to stay with Mail Chimp (Plan A). Motion passed 4 to zero.

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 – Sauder stated that Rader is gone on vacation.

FSA Report – Nothing additional

Committee Reports – Nothing additional.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on Monday, March 13, 2023, at 7:30 AM. Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 AM.