

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes February 10, 2020

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, February 10, 2020. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:42 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Dave Peters, Jim Frogge, Alan Wissmiller, and Larry Kirchner, Associate Director Ed Brown, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, Conservation Assistants Crystal Sauder and Dakota Behrends. Absent were Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and Associate Director John Settle.

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

CONSENT AGENDA: O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion passed five to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of January 13, 2020 Board Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: N/A

OLD BUSINESS:

PFC Cost Share – Behrends stated there are four different Partners for Conservation Cost-Share practices and rates for the Board to review and approve for 2020. The board recommended the removal of Practice 327 – Pollinator Establishment to stretch cost-share funding further. Peters made and Frogge seconded the motion to set the cost-share rate for cover crops at 50% cost-share up to \$20/acre with a maximum of \$1,600 per landowner per year, strip-till at \$20/acre up to \$800 per landowner per year, and well decommissioning at 75% up to \$400 for hand-dug wells and 75% up to \$750 for drilled wells.

Grants – Behrends stated that Janes, O'Connor, Tony Horn, Chad Hansen, and herself have finished the weekly webinars for the Cover Crop Champions Grant. Janes and Behrends will be meeting the Farmer Champions and Outreach Champions on Friday, February 14, 2020 to discuss events for the grant. O'Connor and Janes will go to the in-

person training Wednesday, February 19 and Thursday, February 20 in Moline. O'Connor and Behrends will be going to FS today (February 10) to discuss future events for the grant.

Janes stated the Donnelley Grant money check is being sent to us. The AISWCD is retaining 5% of the grant funds to cover their admin fee. Janes and Sauder will attend the Limestone Township Park District Meeting on Tuesday, February 11 to discuss grant timeline and future funding. They are planning for meetings with Trevor Edmonson and Larry Haigh and others from Herscher High School to beginning planning and growing plants for the grant.

Sauder showed the new Grants webpage she created for the district. Janes stated the page has been sent to the AISWCD and she is putting together a 1-page "Getting Started with Grants" reference for the AISWCD.

Education & Outreach – Behrends stated she is about halfway through ALOT Training. She discussed the different topics each training session has been on.

Janes stated the Drainage District Meeting in on Thursday, March 26, 2020. The IADD is sending out post cards to the contacts and local contractors. This year, the meeting is trying to reach contractors, which is new from 2018. IADD and SWCD are working together to finalize speakers and agenda.

Janes stated the Midland Earth Day Program is expanding this year. The classroom presentations will be on April 6th and 7th at Taft Primary. Janes and Sauder will be presenting to six 1st grade classes and one 2nd grade class this year, an increase from two classes last year. They will also be sending out supplies to the 9 bank branches for Midland States Bank. Janes stated she and Sauder have made a budget for the event, and it came out to be approximately \$260, \$10 more than last year. As the program continues to expand each year, Janes and Sauder are exploring different ways to make the program more sustainable, particularly for funding.

Sauder stated there are three main upcoming events. Kids Day at the Farm is March 18th and 19th. This year the event is being held in the old Sears building instead of the Kankakee County Fair Grounds. She stated the location was moved due to the noise levels at the fairgrounds and the available space at the old Sears. Sauder and Janes are hosting a Citizen Science and I-Pollinate Workshop at the Extension Office on March 27th at 10am. The District is partnering with Bourbonnais Township Park District (BTPD) and Olivet Nazarene University to host a Community BioBlitz August 28th and 29th. Sauder said Janes is working on contacting professionals to host guided tours, activities, and more for the event. BTPD is placing an ad in their community event guide to help promote the event.

Sauder stated there are new event calendars in the binders. The current month's and following month's events will be posted in each binder for director reference. She showed days off, training, and events are all listed in the calendar.

Annual Financial Report – Janes stated she received the Annual Financial Report back from SKDO and will get the 3/5 majority vote form notarized. The Annual Financial Report was approved with a roll call vote. There were five I's and zero nay's across the Board.

2020 Summer Intern – Janes stated she would like the Board to review the Job Posting in their binders for the 2020 Intern. There is \$4,080 budgeted for an intern in the FY20 budget. The job posting was changed to be a 10 weeklong internship, with dates to be determined, an hourly rate listed at \$10-12/hour with approximately 24 hours per week.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Plan of Work Meeting – The Annual Plan of Work Meeting will be held on February 24th, at 7:30am.

Business Cards – Janes stated she would like to purchase professional business cards for herself, Sauder, and Behrends with the amount of outreach events coming up.

Deferred Comp – Janes stated she wanted to discuss offering deferred comp for Sauder and Behrends. The District offers a matching contribution up to 5% of pay on a pre-tax basis for Janes, and would do the same for Sauder and Behrends. It is budgeted for \$1,560 for FY20 for Sauder and Behrends. Wissmiller made and Peters seconded a motion to approve providing deferred comp up to a 5% match for both Sauder and Behrends as soon as paperwork can be filed. Motion passed five to zero.

Background per Director – Behrends stated she wanted a short bio from each Director to put on our website. She will be sending out a form for each Director to fill out.

REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC Report – Nothing additional

AC Report – Nothing additional

Cons. Asst. Reports – Nothing additional

DC Report – Behrends stated the CSP payments have been released and all but one have been signed

FSA Report – None

Committee Reports – None

The next regular District Board meeting was moved tentatively to March 16, 2020 at 7pm. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded the motion to move the meeting from March 9th to March 16th, at 7pm. Motion passed five to zero.

Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed five to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:35am.