

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes February 11, 2019

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday February 11, 2019. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:42 am. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Dave Peters, Alan Wissmiller, and Jim Frogge, Resource Conservationist Emilie Janes, District Intern Crystal Sauder, NRCS District Conservationist Trenton Rader, and FSA Manager Ed Brown.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Kirchner made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of Lady Landowner Meeting and Soil & Cover Crop Field Day to New Business. Motion passed five to zero.

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

NRI – O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve NRI #2019-001 without opposition. Motion passed five to zero.

Partners for Conservation Cost-Share – Janes discussed potential cost-share practices with the Board. The Board discusses the guidelines and cost-share amounts that the District would pay for well sealing, cover crops, and strip-till. No official numbers were approved, but Janes will send the Board additional information on cost-share to be discussed at the next meeting.

Grants – Janes stated that the K3SWCD conservation kit equipment bundles are completed and on the website. She also stated that she is continuing to work on the Communityworks Grant application, due March 8th.

Outreach and Education – Janes shared upcoming educational outreach events with the Board, including two presentations with Midland States Bank at Taft Primary School, a Master Naturalist Soils presentation, native plant seminars, and Kids Day at the Farm.

Sales – Janes stated that the Native Plant, Fish, and Tree sales are in full swing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kankakee River Basin Commission (KRBC) – Janes stated that she has been regularly attending the KRBC meetings. Jeff O'Connor states that he spoke with Kevin Culver, KRBC president, and discussed the bi-county KRBC and bi-state KRBC initiatives. The District will support the initiatives. More information to come.

S.T.A.R Program – O'Connor discussed the Champaign County's current S.T.A.R Program with the Board. The Board participated in filling out the form and discussed the potential of signing an agreement with Champaign County to bring the S.T.A.R. Program to Kankakee County. Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to table the discussion until future meetings. Motion passed five to zero.

Native Plant Workshop, Lady Landowner Circle, and Soil & Cover Crop Field Day – Janes stated that she is in communication with Jennifer Filipiac of the American Farmland Trust to organize a Lady Landowner Circle. O'Connor stated that the District needs to organize and host a soil health and cover crop field day in late summer of this year. Janes also stated that she is seeking approval to provide refreshments for the Native Plant seminars in March. Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve purchasing refreshments, and to move forward with the Lady Landowner and Soil Health events. Motion passed five to zero.

Newsletter Printing – Peters made and Kirchner seconded a motion to pay to print off up to 100 newsletters to distribute around the county. Motion passed five to zero.

Janes Healthcare Stipend – Peters made and O'Connor seconded a motion to reaffirm the position of the Board to offer Janes a \$300 per month stipend for healthcare costs. Janes will receive the stipend quarterly. For February to March, Janes will receive \$600. Motion passed five to zero.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Nothing additional.

AC REPORT – Nothing additional.

DC REPORT – Rader stated that EQIP guidelines will be announced soon.

FSA REPORT – Brown stated that the FSA was shut down from December to February, and Farm Bill progress was put off because of that.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None.

O'Connor stated that the next meeting will be held on **March 11, 2019, at 7:00 pm**. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 am.