

APRIL BOARD MEETING AGENDA

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Monday, April 13, 2026 at 7:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

1. Minutes of March 9, 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 Level 2 Training

Revised FY26 Budget

New Business:

NRI #2026-02

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
May 11, 2026 at 7:30 AM

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes April 13, 2026

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday April 13, 2026. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Jim Frogge and Alan Wissmiller, Associate Directors John Settle, Cody Rollins and Adam Wagner, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder (by phone), Grants & Project Coordinator Emilie Watkins (by phone), Administrative Coordinator Monica Hernandez and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Absent were Director Ed Brown, District Conservationist Trenton Rader and Soil Conservationist Matt Raymond.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of prescribed burn and review and approve operations grant to new business. Motion passed four to zero.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of March 9, 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 CPRG-1a contract has been sent to all participants. She is working on payment forms for all contracts. They are due back to the office by 4/30.

Cost Share – Sauder reported that she will submit the final 2025 strip-till projects once fields are planted. She has conducted site visits for all PFC projects.

FCSS – Sauder also reported that she has conducted FCSS spot checks.

I-Cover – Sauder reported that this is an IDOA program. Pre-enrollment started 4/1 and applications open 4/15. It is a 3-year program for cover crops planted in 2026-2028. It is for new adopters of cover crops or those who utilize new techniques for earlier establishment of cover crops. Rates have been established.

Grants – Section 604B Rock Creek Watershed Plan – Watkins stated that our grant was selected for funding. She had a phone call with Jeff Edstrom, our IL EPA contact. Funding is delayed but our paperwork is being processed. More information on grant timeline to come. Meanwhile, her and Ted are beginning to plan ahead for stakeholder group and watershed planning logistics.

Bi-State Kankakee Watershed RCPP – Watkins stated that the goals of the Bi-State Kankakee Watershed RCPP are to enhance water quality and quantity through voluntary ag projects, practices and easements. The key conservation practices are drainage water management, soil health, nutrient management practices and wetland restoration. The program will run from now through October 2028 with a possible 1-year extension. She met with IL NRCS RCPP Coordinators, Crystal and Trenton. They are seeking a partner for paid TA work in Kankakee, Iroquois and Will Counties. Work can be contracted out. A supplemental agreement must be negotiated with IL NRCS to determine scope of work, payments and timeline.

Events – June Habitat Tour – Hernandez reported that she will be working with Assoc. Director Wagner on dates, location, transportation and catering. Watkins has heard from American Farmland Trust that they are interested in partnering for this event and providing some funding. Discussion was held by the board on when to have it.

Sales – Hernandez reported that the fish sale pickup is April 17th. The tree sale pickup is April 10th.

Conservation Planner Training – Sauder reported that she will be at training for Level 2 Conservation Planner certification in East Peoria April 13-17. She will also be at Soil Health & Sustainability training in Champaign May 12-14.

Revised FY26 Budget – Sauder presented the revised FY26 budget for approval. Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the revised budget as presented. Motion passes four to zero.

NEW BUSINESS:

NRI #2026-02 – Sauder stated that the NRI needing approval is for rezoning of 7 acres on E 1500N Rd, Momence from A1 to SUP to build a tabernacle. Her recommendation is to send a letter of no objection due to a low LESA score. O'Connor made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to follow the recommendation of sending a letter of no objection. Motion passed four to zero.

SWCD Operations Grant – Watkins reported that the District now must apply for Operations funds through the Amplifund system. It is due April 15th. The application includes general info about the District, conflict of interest and mandatory disclosure forms, project performance plan, reportables (transmittal checklist) and the budget. Watkins has spoken to Will Co. and Iroquois Co. to discuss the application process. The amount being applied for varies with how each County is doing theirs. Discussion was held on what should be applied for. Decision was made to apply for 100% of staff time less the amount received from LWG and NRCS. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the operations grant application as discussed. Motion passed four to zero. Watkins will send out the completed grant application and budget.

Prescribed Burn - LWG is interested in creating a group to do prescribed burns. Is the District interested in being a part of it. Wagner stated he would be interested in this.

REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC Report – Nothing additional

AC Report – Nothing additional

Grant Writer – Nothing additional

NRCS Report – Nothing.

FSA Report – CED Murphy stated they are in the final stages (National Level) of getting approval for the implementation of the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP). This will assist the farmers who were affected by the tornado debris clean-up from their farm fields, replace fencing, including border fences. The purpose of ECP is to help return the fields to agricultural production. Anyone who was affected should contact Murphy personally.

Committee Reports –

Good of the Order – Rollins stated that he looked at all the Soil Sensors. He reinstalled the McCorkle sensor.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on May 11, 2026 at 7:30 AM.

Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:02 AM.