

JUNE BOARD MEETING AGENDA

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Monday, June 10, 2024 at 7:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

1. Minutes of April 8, 2024 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
Recent & Future Education & Outreach Events
Contract Work
Sales
Annual Plan of Work
CD

New Business:

Kankakee County Waterways Advisory Subcommittee
Employee Evaluations
Section 604(b) Rock Creek Watershed Plan
NRI #2024-07
NRI #2024-08
AISWCD Annual Meeting
FY25 IDOA Grant Funding
FY25 Budget

Reports – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

Resource Conservationist – Crystal Sauder
Administrative Coordinator – Linda Settle
Grants & Special Projects – Emilie Watkins
Intern – Jacob Hertz

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment

Date and time of next Board Meeting
July 8, 2024 at 7:30 AM

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes June 17, 2024

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Jim Frogge, Larry Kirchner and Ed Brown (left early), Associate Directors John Settle and Cody Rollins, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Grants & Project Coordinator Emilie Watkins (by phone), Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Absent were Director Alan Wissmiller and Soil Conservationist Matt Raymond. Guest in attendance was Shannon Settle.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of April 8, 2024 Board Meeting

TREASURER'S REPORT:

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

CORRESPONDENCE: None

OLD BUSINESS:

PFC Cost Share – Sauder stated that FY23 and FY24 funds have been expended with applications currently in hand. FY24 funds should be arriving soon. Payment authorization is still pending on some of the applications.

Grants – Sauder stated that all soil sensors have been installed. Post-plant field checks are currently being conducted. The first soil health bucket has been created and tested. She is gathering more supplies to create more buckets for the Soil on Demand participants.

Watkins stated that the Compeer Grant web development project is going well. All milestones will be completed by June 30th. She asked the board about extending the contract for the web developer to continue web updates after the site is launched. Consensus is to continue with the contract.

Watkins reported that she met with the Great Lakes Environmental Justice TCTAC on June 6th. Discussion was held on the District's needs, what TCTAC offered and what they could do to help the District. She will follow-up in a few weeks.

Education & Outreach – Sauder reported that she and Watkins are planning 3 events for the Compeer Grant late summer & fall.

Sales – Sauder stated that the fish and tree sales went well, with both of them having a profit.

FY25 APOW – Sauder stated that she had sent out the updated FY25 APOW for everyone to look over prior to the meeting. Kirchner made and Brown seconded a motion to approve the FY25 APOW as prepared. Motion passed four to zero.

CD Expiration – Sauder stated that re-enrolled the CD that expired in April for another 9 months. She also needs papers signed for the third CD that the District is opening.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kankakee County Waterways Advisory Committee – Sauder stated that there are 9 openings on the Kankakee County Waterways Advisory Subcommittee. A representing member from the Kankakee County SWCD needs to be decided. Discussion was held with Brown making and Kirchner seconding a motion to nominate Director Frogge to be the representative from the District. Frogge abstained from voting. Motion passed three to zero.

Employee Evaluations – O'Connor stated that the employee evaluations were satisfactory. Raises were offered and accepted by the employees. Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve the FY25 contracts. Motion passed three to zero.

Sauder stated that the Personnel Policy for FY25 also needed to be approved. There have not been any changes. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the Personnel Policy. Motion passed three to zero.

Section 604(b) Rock Creek Watershed Plan – Watkins stated that the Living Waters Consultants are looking for a grant administrator for a Section 604(b) watershed plan grant. She has discussed it with O'Connor and is presenting the information to the board for review.

NRI #2024-07 – Sauder stated that this NRI application is for rezoning from A1 to Special Use Permit for a community solar project in Limestone Township. The parcel has a low LESA score so the recommendation is to send a letter of no objection. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve sending a letter of no objection. Motion passed three to zero.

NRI #2024-08 – Sauder stated that this NRI application is for rezoning from R1 to Special Use Permit to separate the homestead from farmland in the parcel. The parcel has a low LESA score so the recommendation is to send a letter of no objection. Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve sending a letter of no objection. Motion passed three to zero.

AISWCD Annual Meeting – Sauder stated that the Summer Conference/AISWCD Annual Meeting is July 14-16. She will be going. O'Connor stated that he will also be going for one day.

FY25 IDOA Grant Funding – Sauder reported that the FY25 IDOA grant funding was dropped to \$4.5 million for District Operations. Each District will get either \$46,000 or \$36,000 depending on whether the health insurance stipends of \$1,000,000 are taken from District Operations funding. The health insurance is waiting to be approved. IDOA is hoping the stipends will be taken from the PFC funds.

FY25 Budget – Sauder stated that she had sent out the draft FY25 budget for review ahead of the meeting. There was discussion and review with Kirchner making and Frogge seconding a motion to approve the draft budget. Motion passed three to zero. The final budget approval will be put on the July agenda.

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 there are two positions open in Will County. CRP status checks are currently being performed.

FSA Report – Report acres by July 15th.

Committee Reports –

Good of the Order – Nothing

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on July 8, 2024 at 7:30 AM.

O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:59 AM.