

DECEMBER BOARD MEETING AGENDA

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Monday, December 16, 2024 at 7:30 AM

Approval of Agenda

Public Comment

Consent Agenda

Secretary's Report

1. Minutes of November 18, 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
Education & Outreach Events
Mid-Term Employee Evaluations

New Business:

NRI 2024-11
2025 Meeting Dates
SESC Reviews
NRCS-SWCD IRA Funded Agreement

Reports – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

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

For the Good of the Order

Adjournment

Date and time of next Board Meeting
January 13, 2024 at 7:30 AM

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes December 16, 2024

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, December 16, 2024. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:51 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Larry Kirchner, Jim Frogge and Alan Wissmiller, Associate Directors John Settle and Cody Rollins, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Grants & Project Coordinator Emilie Watkins (by phone) and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Absent were Director Ed Brown, District Conservationist Trenton Rader and Soil Conservationist Matt Raymond.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of November 18, 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 reported that the numbers previously approved for the cost share payments are wrong. Per the Regional Rep, fall strip-till is not payable for FY23 funds. They cannot be paid until spring. Most of the FY23 funds will be getting transferred to other Districts.

Sauder shared a workload tracking form listing the tasks involved with cost-share and the time it takes to perform those tasks. O'Connor suggested holding meetings at one of the farms, possibly March, August and November, with a different farm/farmer each meeting. The purpose would be to review the cost-share practices being performed and how they work for the farmer.

Grants – Compeer Grant – Sauder reported that the Soil on Demand Round Table was held December 5th at 6pm at Brickstone Brewery. There were 18 attendees. The current Compeer grant has been extended through the end of 2025 to spend the remaining funds.

GDDF Grant - Watkins stated that the Conservation Collaborative meeting was held December 5th at 6pm. The next meeting will be in March 2025. Watkins stated that she had a phone call with Rebecca Judd on December 3rd. It was a very positive call. GDF is pleased and impressed

with our District's progress, creativity and resilience. There will be no additional funding for the District beyond 2025. The final \$25,000 has been deposited into the District's account.

Section 604B Rock Creek Watershed Plan – Watkins stated that she had prepared a scope of work, staff roles and staff time report for the Section 604B grant. Time involved would be approximately 12 hours per quarter which would be 100 hours over the course of the grant. It calculates to approximately \$150/hour. Watkins also reported that she has been researching procurement laws including CFR, IL Procurement Code and the SWCD Act. Discussion was held, there is additional research to do before the final decision is made to sign the agreement with Living Waters.

Education & Outreach – Sauder stated that she is finalizing the date for the pond seminar with Seth Love, IDNR Fish Biologist.

Mid-Term Employee Evaluations – O'Connor stated that mid-term employee evaluations were held. Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to approve an end of the year bonus of \$1,000 each to Crystal Sauder and Emilie Watkins and \$500 to Linda Settle. Motion passed four to zero.

NEW BUSINESS:

NRI 2024-11 – Sauder stated that NRI 2024-11 is requesting a special use permit to run a bed & breakfast on the property. Nothing is being changed on the property. She recommends a letter of no effect be sent. O'Connor made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the recommendation of a letter of no effect. Motion passed three to zero with Frogge abstaining due to a conflict of interest.

2025 Meeting Dates – Sauder presented the 2025 Board Meeting dates. Kirchner made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the meeting dates as presented. Motion passed four to zero.

SESC Reviews – Sauder stated that she has been contacted by Lyn from the Army Corp of Engineers asking if the District would want to conduct SESC reviews. Discussion was held and the Board has questions that need to be answered. What if anything is currently being done in the County? Who is doing it? Is there anything we can do? Is this something new or is it just not being done?

NRCD-SWCD IRA Funded Agreement – Sauder stated that the AISWCD sent out information regarding an agreement with NRCS for a Local Work Group Planning, Watershed Planning and Climate Smart Ag Outreach & Education Program. Decision is needed by January 8th as to whether the District wants to participate. Discussion was held on what would be involved, how much time would be involved and whether the workload for the District staff would allow time for participation. Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to leave the final decision for District participation up to RC Sauder based on whether her workload would allow her to perform extra work. Motion passed four to zero.

REPORTS – in addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC Report – Nothing additional

AC Report – Nothing additional

Grant Writer – Nothing additional

NRCS Report – CSP payments were due December 13th

FSA Report – Nothing

Committee Reports –

Good of the Order – Sauder stated that the Kankakee River Basin Commission was rescheduled from last Wednesday, December 11th to this Wednesday, December 18th. It will be at the Bradley-Bourbonnais Sportsman Club.

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on January 13, 2025 at 7:30 AM.

O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 9:17 AM.