

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes July 8, 2024

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly board meeting on Monday, July 8, 2024. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:29 AM. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller, Jim Frogge, Larry Kirchner and Ed Brown (arrived at 7:44, left 8:26), Associate Directors John Settle and Cody Rollins, Resource Conservationist Crystal Sauder, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and District Conservationist Trenton Rader. Absent were Grants & Project Coordinator Emilie Watkins and Soil Conservationist Matt Raymond. Guest in attendance was Shannon Settle.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: O'Connor made and Kirchner 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 after breaking out the Treasure's report as requested by Kirchner. Motion passed four to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT:

Minutes of June 17, 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 American Farm Land Trust has opened up enrollment under the re:generations program.

Sauder reported that the FY24 cost share funds has been received. Completed contracts are reviewed with Frogge making and O'Connor seconding a motion to approve the contracts as submitted. Motion passed five to zero.

Grants – Sauder stated there are here events being planned under the Compeer Grant. Soil on Demand Farmer Roundtable at Brickstone in late July, a Soil Health Buckets program at a Soil on Demand Farmer's farm in early August and OC Farms PepsiCo event at OC Farms on August 31st.

Education & Outreach – Sauder reported that there is nothing planned other than the grant events.

Contract Work - Sauder reported on behalf of Watkins (not able to attend) that the web page has launched. There is \$3,200.00 left in the budget for the web developer and Watkins recommends extending the contract through December 31, 2024 (end of grant) on an as needed basis. Kirchner made and Brown seconded a motion to approve the contract extension for the web developer. Motion passed five to zero.

Sales – Sauder reported that the fall fish and tree sales are set and order forms are on the SWCD website. The fish sale is scheduled for order deadline of September 16th for grass carp and September 23rd for all others. Pickup will be October 11th. Tree sale is scheduled for October 4th order deadline with pickup of October 17th.

Section 604(b) Rock Creek Watershed Plan – Sauder stated that Watkins (not able to attend) had sent a sample watershed plan to Directors. Watkins has invited Living Waters Consultants (LWC) to the August meeting.

FY25 Budget – Additional discussion was held regarding the FY25 budget still needing final approval. Brown made and Kirchner seconded a motion to approve the budget as presented with adjustments made to line item when needed. Motion passed five to zero.

NEW BUSINESS:

Treasurer Report – Discussion was held on renewing the CD maturing in August. Kirchner made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to renew the CD maturing on August 9th. Motion passed four to zero. Consensus is to also look into possibly opening another \$50,000.00 CD in August making sure that maturity dates are staggered.

AISWCD Resolutions – Sauder stated that there are 5 resolutions being brought to the AISWCD Annual Meeting. Kirchner made and Frogge seconded a motion to give O'Connor, Board Chairman of Kankakee County SWCD full voting authority at the AISWCD Annual Meeting. Motion passed four 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.

Seeders – Sauder stated that we have received old seeders from Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie's surplus equipment. They are in the shed behind the office. Discussion was held on possible uses.

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 shared that he has an applicant for one of the NRCS programs that has bison.

FSA Report – There is 26% of acres still to be reported by July 15th.

Committee Reports –

Good of the Order – Nothing

The next regular District Board meeting will be held on August 12, 2024 at 7:30 AM.

O'Connor made and Frogge seconded a motion to adjourn. The motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 AM.