

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes April 13, 2009

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday, April 13, 2009. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller, Erich Schott, Brian Grob and Dave Peters, Associate Directors John Settle and Charlie Cyr, Conservation District Manager Rich Howell and Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle. Absent were Associate Directors Larry Kirchner and Alex Panozzo and District Conservationist Robert Gotkowski.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Peters made and Grob seconded a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed five to zero.

Peters made and Grob seconded a motion to move to Executive Session. Motion passed five to zero. The Board moved into Executive Session and returned at 7:30 pm. Wissmiller made and Schott seconded a motion to move out of Executive Session. Motion passed five to zero. The outcome of the session was given under new business/Budget Committee Reports/Employee Policies.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of the March 9, 2009 Board Meeting: Peters made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed five to zero.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approval of Time and Travel: Peters made and Grob seconded a motion to approve the time and travel reports. Motion passed five to zero.

Approval of Financial Report: Peters made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the financial report. Motion passed five to zero.

Howell stated that the 3rd quarter allocation from the state has been approved and the amendment to the grant agreement has been returned. Payment could come at the end of April or end of May

Approval of Bills: Peters made and Grob seconded a motion to approve the paying of bills. Motion passed five to zero.

CORRESPONDENCE: Included were: a thank you for sponsoring the 4-H Natural Resources trophy from the girl who received it, a thank you from IL Forestry Association for our membership renewal, a letter from NACD asking us to pay membership dues and an invitation from Ford County SWCD to a Woodland Management and Spring Wildflowers Tour at Ten Mile Grove near Paxton.

OLD BUSINESS:

Erosion & Sediment Control Service Update – Howell stated that there has been a couple of people come in for permits that are building houses.

NRI Approval – None

RC & D – Howell commented that Gotkowski had included the information in his written report about the meeting last week being cancelled. The next meeting is to be June 11th.

Wind farm Update – Howell stated that there has been nothing new since last month. The County Board did approve the wind farm.

Fish & Tree Sale Update - AC Settle stated that the pick up for the fish sale is Thursday the 16th. She stated that there are 16 orders at this time. The tree sale is still going and there are 10 orders at this time. Discussion was held on the possibility of the District using Director Peters truck and trailer for picking up the trees from the nursery.

NEW BUSINESS:

Budget Committee Report/Employee Policies – O'Connor stated that the budget committee had met and after reviewing the current budget has made recommendations for new employee policies. 1. Employees will wear apparel with the District logo in the office at all times. 2. The AC position will be 5 days a week, 8:30 am – 3:30 pm, ½ hour lunch, 32 ½ hour work week. Wissmiller made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the new employee policies. Motion passed five to zero. The change to the AC hours will begin with the new pay period on April 20th. District Office hours will also be posted.

Reorganization of Committees – Discussion was held on the District committees and changes that to be made. Associate Director Settle and Director O'Connor were added to the outreach committee. Director O'Connor was added to the Annual Plan of Work committee. Associate Director Panozzo was taken off the Education committee and the RC & D committee. Patty Horton was taken off the Education committee and Associate Director Settle was taken off the RC & D committee. Howell was added to the RC & D committee. Peters made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to make these changes to the committees. Motion passed five to zero.

Sign Replacement – Howell stated that the District signs in front of the building need replaced. He would like to see new signs with the District logo. Discussion was held and AC Settle was asked to get quotes on 2 vinyl signs 2' x 8' that will then be mounted on board.

Equipment Purchases – Howell stated that the District has an opportunity to purchase a good used digital camera for \$400. Discussion was held, then Wissmiller made and Grob seconded a motion to purchase the used camera. Motion passed four to zero with Peters abstaining.

Teacher Grant Program – O'Connor stated that another suggestion that came from the budget committee was awarding 4 more teacher grants since we had only given 4 at the annual meeting. Howell had been asked to review the applications previously submitted and give a recommendation. Howell stated that he would like to send out something new asking for more applications instead. Discussion was held on whether to give 4 more grants. Wissmiller made

and Grob seconded a motion to award 4 more grants. Motion failed two to three with Chairman O'Connor casting the tie breaking vote.

Gar Creek Project – Discussion was held on the District looking to see if there is anything that the District can do to help with an issue that has been brought up by the Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve. The Forest Preserve is concerned about water that they feel is coming from Gar Creek into the Gar Creek Preserve.

O'Connor also brought up the suggestion of looking into other sources for conservation/environmental summer programs that may be looking for some financial assistance for kids to participate. The District is already sending a Junior High or High School Student to the Conservation Camp but might be able to help elsewhere. AC Settle was asked to prepare something to send to local park districts, libraries, and scout groups asking them if they are looking for sponsorship for an environmental summer program.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Howell stated that he had nothing else at this time.

AC REPORT – AC Settle had nothing else to report.

DC REPORT – Gotkowski is on vacation but his written report was included in the binders.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

The next regular District Board meeting will be May 11, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Grob made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.