

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes April 12, 2010

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday April 12, 2010. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller, and Brian Grob, Associate Directors Larry Kirchner and John Settle, Conservation District Manager Rich Howell, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and District Conservationist Bob Gotkowski. Absent were Directors Dave Peters and Erich Schott, Associate Directors Charlie Cyr and Alex Panozzo. Guest in attendance was Joe Bybee, BLWR Regional Representative.

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

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of March 8, 2010 Board Meeting: Wissmiller made and O'Connor seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed three to zero.

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

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

Approval of Bills: Grob made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the paying of bills as presented. Motion passed three to zero.

CORRESPONDENCE: Included were a letter from the Bureau not objecting to the proposed K4 Windfarm with an explanation on how the decision was made and a request from the IL Forestry Association for membership dues.

OLD BUSINESS:

Erosion & Sediment Control Service Update – Howell stated that he has had a few final inspections and is still helping with temporary occupancy permits. E & SC applications and inspections have been slow locally and on the state level.

NRI Approval – Howell stated that there is one NRI to be approved. It is located southwest of Aroma Park and already has a house on the property. Homeowner is trying to sell the house and the property has to be rezoned before it can be done. His recommendation is to send a no effect letter and \$200 of the application fee be refunded. Grob made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to send a no effect letter and refund \$200 to the applicant. Motion passed three to zero.

RC & D – Howell stated that the RC & D application is being sent to Washington. It will be there ready when they start processing applications again. Howell also stated that the decision had been made to have meetings every other month in person and the opposite months by teleconference. NRCS has agreed to provide the funding for the teleconferences. He also told

the board that a contribution is going to be made to the Salute to Ag breakfast at the Farmers Market in June from the RC & D.

Windfarm Update – Howell stated that he had recently talked to Delbert with the County Planning Dept. Delbert has been told that they will begin seeking permits in April or May. There have not been any issued yet. Howell stated that he has been told that they have everything they need to get to the grid, including materials and easements.

FY10 Funding – Discussion was held on the funding situation with the state. Joe Bybee talked a little about how other district's budget compare to ours. He believes that the districts will get at least the first 3 quarters of their operations allocations but has no idea when it will be. Howell gave an overview of the town meeting recently held by Rep. Lisa Dugan and Sen. Toi Hutchensen on the budget issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

O'Connor asked Howell if he had heard anything from FSA on the rental of the building. Howell stated that everything is in Springfield and there has not been any news as yet.

Discussion was held on the Illinois Cover Crop Initiative and what type of cover crops would be good.

Discussion was held on what the District should do with calls received from concerned citizens telling about extreme ditch cleaning. The question is how involved should the district get at this time. Consensus from the board is to make it a policy for the District to provide a name and phone number for IEPA when the calls are received.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

Joe Bybee – Joe stated that the deadline for the FY08 & FY09 cost share money to be spent or obligated is June 30th. FY10 can be shifted from District to District if needed. He also stated that the transect survey will be done again this year.

RC REPORT –Howell stated he had attended an employee meeting in Morris earlier in the day. There is going to be specific employee training at Summer Conference which has not happened in a long time. The Illinois Urban Manual continues to be updated. FOIA requests timeline is still in effect even if the SWCD office closes. He also stated that the U of I Extension is doing some major restructuring due to lack of funding. The Kankakee River Roundtable continues to meet. Howell thanked everyone who helped at Kids Day. He also told the board that the SWCD, Master Gardeners and Kankakee Chamber of Commerce are going to be selling rain barrels at the Farmers Market.

AC REPORT – AC Settle stated that the fish sale pick up is Thursday morning, everything is ready.

DC REPORT – Gotkowski stated that there are 2 CSP contracts obligated and funding is available for them. He also has one EQIP application and 1 CRP application. He stated that

wetland determination requests continue to come in at an increasing rate. The Kankakee Sands is now to be included in CREP due to it being an IDNR conservation priority area. NRCS is expecting to bring the conservation work group in again in September or October looking for conservation issues. Gotkowski also announced to the board and staff that he will be retiring June 1st after 35 years.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

The next regular District Board meeting will be May 10, 2010 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Grob made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:53 pm.