

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes April 11, 2011

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday, April 11, 2011. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Brian Grob, and Alan Wissmiller, Associate Directors John Settle and Larry Kirchner, Conservation District Manager Rich Howell, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle, District Conservationist Kelly German and FSA Executive Director Ed Brown. Absent were Directors Dave Peters and Erich Schott, Associate Directors Charlie Cyr and Alex Panozzo. Guests in attendance were Shannon Settle, Kelsey O'Connor, Evan O'Connor and Hannah Wissmiller.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

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 14, 2011 Board Meeting: Wissmiller made and Grob seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed three to zero.

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

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Included were a copy of the contract between the District and IDNR to have the District provide assistance in overseeing and implementing the Illinois Recreational Access Program in Kankakee County and a copy of the memo from IDOA regarding the FY11 operations allocation deposit for the 1st and 2nd quarter.

OLD BUSINESS:

Erosion & Sediment Control Service Update – Howell stated that there were three applications that did not need a permit and that he is working with Tyson Engineering for Olivet's new building when they decide to move forward.

NRI Approval – There was nothing this month.

RC & D – Howell stated that the next meeting is Thursday. He has made a proposal to the group to meet face to face quarterly and have a conference call the other months. Howell has also asked the RC & D to be a sponsor for the local foods breakfast. He stated that the USDA

is not funding any new RC & D's and not sure if they will be funding any of the current groups after October.

Windfarm Update – Howell stated that there is nothing new. O'Connor stated that he had heard it was being held up due to possibility of radar interference.

Wireless Internet Options for Laptop – AC Settle stated that the MiFi has been picked up and it is working well. The first bill has been received and was included on the list of bills for approval.

Kids Day – Howell thanked everyone who had helped with the presentations at Kids Day. He made special mention of the “next generation” who had done a fabulous job and have suggestions for improvement to the presentations. This group included the O'Connor and Wissmiller children.

Annual Plan of Work – German stated that she and Howell had met several times to work out how the NRCS goals within the SWCD annual plan of work should be written. Howell stated that there has been some tweaking of the job descriptions to make them acceptable for NRCS.

IRAP – Howell stated that the idea of this program came after several meetings of the Conservation Congress. The idea is to provide more and easier access to hunting and fishing areas. It is a program to go along with CRP and CREP.

NEW BUSINESS:

Envirothon – Howell stated that a request has been received from the Illinois Envirothon for a donation. He stated that this is included in the budget. Wissmiller made and Grob seconded a motion to make a \$100 donation to the Illinois Envirothon. Motion passed three to zero.

AISWCD dues – Howell stated that an invoice had been received from the AISWCD for the 1st and 2nd quarter dues payment within 30 days after the receipt of the operations allocation. Some discussion was held and the item was tabled until the May meeting.

Civil Rights Training for FY11 – German stated that the NRCS National Civil Rights review is May 16 – 20 and the Bourbonnais office was one of 5 offices chosen from Illinois. It will be on May 16th and she will be getting more information. She will find out if the Directors have to be there or just have to be available by phone. Comments given from the Directors were that their attendance could be a problem with planting time going full strength by that time.

Fish Sale Update – AC Settle stated that the fish sale has gone very well. There are 24 orders total and the pick up date is Wednesday morning.

Tree Sale Update – AC Settle stated that the tree sale is not going so well, there are only 5 orders to date but there is still a couple of weeks before the sale ends. Discussion was held on what should be used as the cutoff amount for either continuing or cancelling the sale. Consensus is to wait until closer to the end of the sale before a decision is made.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Howell stated that there have been letters sent to the AISWCD, including one from the Kankakee SWCD asking for a strategic planning session during the AISWCD's Annual Meeting in July. He expressed his concern that although it appears that there will be planning sessions, the sessions may not address the concerns of the letter writers. Howell also stated that two applications for the SWCD scholarship had been received but that neither appeared to be eligible. He said he had asked Chad Miller of Farm Bureau to mention the SWCD scholarship to all of the applicants Farm Bureau had received for their grants. Howell mentioned a Rain Garden/Rain Barrel workshop on May 6th that he will be a presenter at. It is a joint meeting with Extension and KCC. Howell reported that he and O'Connor had had some preliminary discussion with the Board and staff of the Livingston County SWCD to see if the Kankakee SWCD staff could fill the need for payroll assistance since Livingston SWCD is without an AC. This would allow additional hours for AC Settle if an agreement were reached.

AC REPORT – AC Settle had nothing additional.

DC REPORT – German had nothing additional.

FSA REPORT – CED Brown stated that the general sign up for CRP ends April 18th and there has been very little interest. He thanked DC German for her help with the non compliance issues that needed taken care of. The DCP sign up is about half done. Brown offered the use of their spare workstation for AC Settle when both she and Howell are in the office.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

The next regular District Board meeting will be May 9, 2011 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Grob made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed three to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.