

## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### **Minutes August 22, 2011**

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday, August 22, 2011. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:13 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller and Erich Schott, Associate Director Larry Kirchner, Conservation District Manager Rich Howell, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle, District Conservationist Kelly German and FSA Executive Director Ed Brown. Director Dave Peters arrived at 7:15 pm. Absent were Director Brian Grob, Associate Directors John Settle, Charlie Cyr and Alex Panozzo. Guest in attendance was Hannah Wissmiller.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of July 11, 2011 Board Meeting: Wissmiller made and Schott seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed four to zero.

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

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Included was a letter from the AISWCD regarding discount Long Term Care coverage, an invitation to the Lady Ag seminar being hosted by the Iroquois Co. SWCD and a notice about a town hall meeting being held with Senator Toi Hutchinson and Representative Lisa Dugan.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Erosion & Sediment Control Service Update** – Howell stated that things have been slow. There was a permit today for a new house.

**NRI Approval** – Howell stated that there is an NRI for consideration. It is approximately 5 acres that they are requesting to be rezoned from A-1 to A-2. The property has never been farmed so there is nothing being taken out of production. Howell's recommendation is to send a letter of no effect. Wissmiller made and Schott seconded a motion to follow the recommendation to send a no effect letter. Motion passed four to zero.

**RC & D** – Howell stated that there was a meeting in July. The RC&D is helping to support the Northern Anglers river clean up. The next in person meeting will be October 20th.

**Windfarm Update** – Howell stated that everything is still quiet. There was a journal article that said that referenced the fact that there was no one to buy the electric but no one at the County has heard anything.

**IRAP** – Howell stated that there have been articles put out throughout the state about the program. As of this time there has not been any interest from anyone in the area.

**Local Work Group** – District Conservationist Kelly German opened the official meeting of the Local Work Group. She stated that she had sent an email to the original group from the 2008 meeting. She had referenced the information gathered at that meeting, asking for input as to whether changes needed to be made to list that had been developed or were they all still valid issues. The few responses she received stated that all of the issues were still relevant. Discussion was held on a couple of the issues on the list and consensus from this group was that everything was to remain on the list. The official meeting of the Local Work Group was adjourned.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Annual Plan of Work** – The draft of the Annual Plan of Work was presented in the board binders. Discussion was held and the recommendation to change the review of the APOW from quarterly to semi annual. Peters made and Schott seconded a motion to approve the Annual Plan of Work with the recommended change from quarterly to semi annual for the review. Motion passed four to zero.

**AISWCD Priority Surveys** – Discussion was held on the survey that the AISWCD is requesting the Districts to complete. Peters made and Schott seconded a motion that the District not participate in the survey. Motion passed four to zero.

**Contract Signing Approvals** – Employee contracts were presented for signature by the Chairman. Wissmiller made and Schott seconded a motion to authorize Chairman O'Connor to sign the FY12 employee contracts. Motion passed four to zero.

## **REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary**

**RC REPORT** – Howell stated that he had met with Representative Dugan talking about ag issues. She stated that she thinks that during the veto session they will be looking at the pension issues. She also stated that the FY13 budget will have more cuts. Howell stated that they also talked about the gaming bill that the Governor needs to make a decision on. The funding that is supposed to come to the SWCD's from this bill is to come from the additional slots that would be put in places other than casinos. How the Governor decides could have an effect on whether the SWCD's get any funding from the bill. Howell also stated that the next LUC meeting is September 1<sup>st</sup> in Coal City. He stated that he had attended a meeting with an Illinois Department of Transportation representative who talked about the area road projects. There are several projects in the works for the area including the current 315 interchange reconstruction. O'Connor asked about the used oil collection day and Howell stated that there

were not as many gallons collected as in previous years but that he feels that there were more people in attendance than ever before.

**AC REPORT** – Nothing.

**DC REPORT** – German stated that this would be her last board meeting until January. Her last day at work will be September 1<sup>st</sup>. Randy Edwards will be here 3 days a week while she is gone. O'Connor presented her with a gift from the board and staff for the baby.

**FSA REPORT** – CED Brown stated that sign up and certification are over. He stated that he as been asked to submit information for a disaster declaration for the county due to excessive rain. His findings are that there was not an abnormal amount of moisture during the spring. A decision will be made at a later time on the possible heat related disaster declaration.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

The next regular District Board meeting will be September 12, 2011 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Schott made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.