

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes December 14, 2009

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday December 14, 2009. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Brian Grob, Dave Peters, Alan Wissmiller and Erich Schott, Associate Directors Larry Kirchner, John Settle, Charlie Cyr and Alex Panozzo, Conservation District Manager Rich Howell, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and District Conservationist Bob Gotkowski. Guests in attendance were Marie Panozzo, Hannah Wissmiller, Kelsey O'Connor and Shannon Settle.

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

Chairman O'Connor cancelled the Executive Session and Personnel Committee report due to time constraints caused with fall harvest not having allowed semi annual employee reviews. Dates and time were discussed for the Personnel Committee and Budget Committee to meet.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of September 14, 2009 Board Meeting: Grob made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed five 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 five to zero.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Included was a thank you note from the recipient of the 4-H trophy sponsored by the District and a copy of Rich Nichol's report that included information on the new regulations regarding FOIA requests.

OLD BUSINESS:

Erosion & Sediment Control Service Update – Howell stated that there are temporary occupancy permits being given to people now as long as they have either put down sod or an erosion blanket to stabilize their lawn until spring.

NRI Approval – None at this time.

RC & D – Howell stated that the meeting last Thursday, December 10th was cancelled due to the weather.

Wind farm Update – Howell stated that he does not know much more than what has been in the paper recently. The proposal is to have an additional 80 wind turbines included with the windfarm.

Fall Tree Sale Update – AC Settle stated that the fall tree sale was cancelled due to not enough orders being placed. Money was refunded to those who had ordered.

Fall Fish Sale Update – AC Settle stated that the fall fish sale went well and gave the District a profit of about \$1400.

Forest Preserve Project/Gar Creek – Howell reported that they are still looking for money to complete the project. He has tried to make sure the Gar Creek Drainage District stays informed but Chairman O'Connor stated that there has been no contact.

FY10 Funding – Howell stated that the signed grant agreement has been received and the information given is that the paperwork is at the comptroller's office waiting for the word to release the 1st and 2nd quarter funds.

NEW BUSINESS:

2010 Board Meeting Dates – Included in the binders was the proposed 2010 board meeting dates. Schott made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the dates presented. Motion passed five to zero.

Petition to Hold Election at Annual Meeting – The petition to hold the election was handled under the annual meeting.

Apparel purchase request – Howell stated that he would like to have the District purchase a jacket with logo on it for him in the amount of \$73. Wissmiller made and Peters seconded a motion to purchase the jacket. Motion passed five to zero.

Computer Support Fee – Howell stated that NRCS has informed Districts that they will only be supporting one computer for the Districts due to budget issues. The cost for the Districts to keep a second computer on the network would be about \$3200. This will begin around February 1st. Howell suggests having his scrubbed, purchase the software needed to go back on it and have a DSL line installed for internet access. Discussion was held and the consensus was to remove Howell's computer from the network. Howell is going to confer with Peters on what is needed and it will be discussed at the January meeting.

Teacher Grant Program – There were 3 teacher grant applications submitted and reviewed by the education committee. The education committee gave their recommendations and Peters made with Grob seconding a motion to give a \$250 grant to the applicant for the rain garden project. A request is to be made for more detailed plans to determine if the district would grant additional money for the project. Motion passed five to zero.

LUC Meeting – Howell stated that discussion was held at the LUC meeting on how districts can market themselves, the computer support fee and the AISWCD budget. He also informed the board that O'Connor will become chairman of the LUC in March.

NACD Dues – Discussion was held with the consensus that the District will not pay these dues.

IL Forestry Dues – Howell stated that dues for the IL Forestry were not included in the budget this year. Consensus was not to pay them.

Sponsorship Brochures – Howell stated that the AISWCD had sponsorship brochures printed up and then determined that they did not have the money to pay for them. They now want the Districts to pay for the brochures and then solicit sponsors to get the money back. Discussion was held and consensus was that soliciting sponsors for the AISWCD would take the sponsors away from the District.

QuickBooks Update – AC Settle stated that the QuickBooks 2007 will need to be updated as it will not receive the tax table updates after May 2010. Wissmiller made and Grob seconded a motion to purchase QuickBooks 2010 for the District. Prior to a vote being made Associate Director Panozzo stated that he had QuickBooks 2009 that he would be willing to donate to the District. AC Settle will check with Intuit to be sure the 2009 version can be used.

Annual Meeting – The petition to hold election at an annual meeting was presented and signed by all directors. Howell suggested that the Teacher of the Year award be given to Susan White; she was the recipient of a teacher grant previously and used the money for a worm composting project that is ongoing. Peters made and Grob seconded a motion to award the Teacher of the Year to Susan White. Motion passed five to zero. Howell also stated that suggestions are needed for Farm Family and Friend of Conservation awards. Discussion was held and both will be tabled until the January meeting. Suggestions were then given for a speaker. They included Mike Bossert, Bob Massey and Mike Bronson. Howell is going to make the contacts and see who is available.

Chairman O'Connor asked the Associate Directors what the District should be focusing on. They felt the focus should be on water quality and conservation, stormwater issues and wildlife.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Howell stated that the Drainage District meeting will be held February 18. He also said that there will be a meeting on February 17 at the Bourbonnais Sportsman Club of the Illinois River Coordinating Council. He went over the dates he has scheduled for leave in early 2010.

AC REPORT – AC Settle stated that the spring fish sale has been scheduled with pick up on April 15, 2010. She also stated that 37 notices were sent out for renewal to newsletter advertisers. To date 32 have been renewed.

DC REPORT – Gotkowski stated that he had sent everyone an email on conservation care of ruts. He then reviewed his written report that was included in the binders. He also stated that there is possibly money that could be allocated to the county for conservation needs determined

by the local led work groups as a priority. The groups need to meet again to determine what top priority for the county is.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

The next regular District Board meeting will be January 11, 2010 beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Grob made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed five to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.