

## KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

### **Minutes July 16, 2009**

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Thursday, July 16, 2009. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Dave Peters, Erich Schott and Alan Wissmiller, Associate Director Charlie Cyr, Conservation District Manager Rich Howell, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and District Conservationist Bob Gotkowski. Absent were Director Brian Grob, Associate Directors Larry Kirchner, John Settle and Alex Panozzo.

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

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Minutes of June 8, 2009 Board Meeting: Peters made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed four to zero.

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

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

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Included were: A memo from AISWCD regarding non payment of third quarter dues not affecting the Districts being able to attend and vote at the Summer Conference Annual Meeting as long as the first and second quarter dues have been paid, a letter from Tom Jennings, IDOA regarding the FY2010 budget and the lack of funding for the SWCD's, a copy of an email from Rich Nichols with the proposed resolutions being presented at Summer Conference and how the AISWCD voted on them, a copy of an email from Rich Nichols with an explanation of how the FY2009 allocations were figured, a copy of an email from Rich Nichols regarding the budget with a copy of the Illinois Farm Bureau's "Quick View" that summarizes the budget deal.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

**Erosion & Sediment Control Service Update** – Howell stated that AC Settle had included a monthly tracking report for FY09 in the binders. Howell also stated that the Kankakee County Board has said that the amount of the fee the District charges is up to the District. County Board Chairman, Mike Bossert said he thought the fee should be \$100. Wissmiller made and Peters seconded a motion to increase the E & SC permit application fee for the District to \$100 effective July 17, 2009. Motion passed three to zero. Schott abstained.

**NRI Approval** – Howell stated that AC Settle had also included a monthly tracking report for FY09 for NRI's. He stated that without the windfarm NRI there was not much done in FY09.

Howell then stated that there was one NRI to be approved. It is for approximately a 20 acre area that includes 3 parcels. It is located in Salina Township on 4000N Rd. and is in a very wet area but the NRI gives no reason for an objection from the District. Wissmiller made and Schott seconded a motion to approve the NRI and send a letter of no objection. Motion passed four to zero. An IDNR EcoCat report was completed and included in this NRI.

**RC & D** – The next meeting will be August 13, 2009 at the Bourbonnais USDA Service Center.

**Wind farm Update** – Howell stated that they are getting closer to having the easements needed to get the electric to the grids at Cognis. O'Connor stated that work was being done on marking the pole locations via a GPS unit.

**Sign Replacement Update** – This was tabled again due to still not having a clear idea of the District budget for FY2010 and where the District office will be located in summer 2011.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**AISWCD 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Dues** – Howell stated that we have the statement from the AISWCD for the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter dues and would like to pay them both. The District has not received the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter allocation as yet but the grant agreement has been signed and it is just a matter of waiting for it to go through the process. Wissmiller made and Schott seconded a motion to pay the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarter dues out of the FY09 budget. Motion passed four to zero.

**Budget Committee Report & Personnel Committee Meeting Date** – A short discussion was held on the budget that was included in the board's binder. Consensus was to hold off on approving a budget until at least the August meeting with the hope that there would be a better idea of what the District FY2010 allocation will be. A date was discussed for holding the personnel committee meeting and it was decided that the budget committee would also meet on that date. A short recess was taken for Chairman O'Connor to check on available dates. Upon his return the date was set for July 29, 2009 at 8 am.

**Delegation of Conservation Plan Contract Signing** – Howell stated that FSA Executive Director Ed Brown had asked for the District Board to officially delegate Howell as the person who signs the conservation plan contracts for the District if he is going to continue signing them. Peters made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to delegate the authority to sign conservation plan contracts for the District to Howell. Motion passed four to zero.

**Signature Authority of Grant Agreements/Amendments** – Howell stated that the suggestion had been made through IDOA that an employee for each District be given the authority to sign grant agreements/amendments in the event the Board Chairman is unable to be reached causing a delay in returning the agreements/amendments when a quick turnaround is needed. Schott made and Peters seconded a motion to give Howell the authority to sign grant agreements/amendments under the stated conditions. Motion passed four to zero.

**Fall Tree Sale** – AC Settle stated that the fall tree sale is set. Orders are due on September 23, 2009 with pick up at the District office on September 25, 2009 and September 26, 2009 if needed.

**Fall Fish Sale** – AC Settle stated that the fall fish sale is also set. Orders are due on September 11, 2009. Grass carp orders are due September 3, 2009. Pick up at the District office will be September 18, 2009.

**Pond Seminar** – Howell stated that the pond seminar will be August 25, 2009. It will be held at Dale DeYoung's pond which is on Armour Rd. east of Rt. 50.

**Summer Conference** – Short discussion was held on summer conference. Peters made and Schott seconded a motion to give Chairman O'Connor the authority to vote on behalf of the district at the Annual Meeting. Motion passed four to zero.

**LUC Meeting** – Howell stated that the District is hosting the September meeting. He is looking for suggestions for a possible tour prior to dinner or just have dinner. Discussion was held and consensus was to have a dinner only with Brickstone restaurant being the suggested locale.

**Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve Project** – Howell stated that he had gotten a request from the Kankakee River Valley Forest Preserve in response to the inquiries that had gone out regarding possible programs/projects that might be in need of some financial assistance should the District have the capability. The Forest Preserve is looking at a project that they are hoping will improve the flow problem on Gar Creek. They are also asking if the District might be able to help with administrative support such as helping fill out grant applications or other paper work that they need done. Discussion was held and the possibility of giving them administrative support was agreed upon. Further information will need to be obtained.

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

**RC REPORT** – Howell stated that he did not have anything else.

**AC REPORT** – AC Settle stated that she didn't have anything else.

**DC REPORT** – Gotkowski stated that the EQIP contract obligation period has passed. The first batching had 5 out of 6 contracts approved for the county and the second batching had 1 organic and 1 other contract approved. Total commitments for these contracts is \$89,000. He stated that CSP may roll out soon, they have been told August 09. He also stated that the new chief for NRCS has introduced a hypoxia initiative. It is to be part of EQIP to possibly roll out in October and be watershed oriented. Gotkowski stated that he has done a Natural Inventory Resource update.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS –**

The next regular District Board meeting will be August 17, 2009 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Wissmiller made and Schott seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.