

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes March 8, 2010

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday March 8, 2010. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor, Alan Wissmiller, Dave Peters and Erich Schott, Associate Directors Larry Kirchner and John Settle, Conservation District Manager Rich Howell, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and District Conservationist Bob Gotkowski. Absent were Director Brian Grob, Associate Directors Charlie Cyr and Alex Panozzo. Guests in attendance were Ed Brown, FSA Executive Director.

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

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD:

Election of Officers – Wissmiller made and Peters seconded a motion to cast a unanimous ballot of the officers to remain as is. Jeff O'Connor as Chairman, Brian Grob as Vice Chairman, Dave Peters as Treasurer and Alan Wissmiller as Secretary. Motion passed four to zero.

Appointment of Associate Directors – Schott made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to accept the Associate Directors as listed. They are Charlie Cyr, Larry Kirchner, Alex Panozzo and John Settle. Motion passed four to zero.

Restructure of Committees – Discussion was held and decision made to add O'Connor to the education committee and Kirchner to the financial committee. Peters made and Schott seconded a motion to accept the committees as restructured. Motion passed four to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of February 8, 2010 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: Peters made and Wissmiller seconded a motion to approve the time and travel reports. Motion passed four to zero.

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Included were an email from NACD for a call to action on the Open Equal Access to Justice Act along with a copy of the letter they are sending to legislatures asking for their support and a letter from Lisa Habeeb about Kids Day on March 17 & 18.

OLD BUSINESS:

Erosion & Sediment Control Service Update – Howell stated that he has had 4 or 5 applications not needing permits and has had 1 application for a house being built. He is also working with Heritage Woods for their Notice of Intent and Olivet on their chapel construction project for the SWWP.

NRI Approval – Howell stated that there are 2 NRI's to be approved. The first one is for a 13 acre tract to be rezoned from A1 to A2, the property was bought in foreclosure and the county is processing the rezoning without any fees. Howell recommends that a no effect letter be sent so that the rezoning will proceed. Wissmiller made and Schott seconded a motion to send a no effect letter. Motion passed four to zero. The second NRI is for a pole barn, the property was recently added to the complex and needs to be rezoned. The land is not being taken out of production. Howell recommends that a no effect letter be sent and \$200 of the application fee be refunded. Peters made and seconded a motion to send a no effect letter and refund \$200 to the applicant. Motion passed four to zero.

RC & D – Howell stated that the next meeting is this Thursday, March 11th at the Extension office.

Windfarm Update – Nothing.

FY10 Funding – Howell stated that there still has not been any money received from the state for District operations. No one knows when or if it will arrive.

Drainage District Meeting – O'Connor stated that he felt the meeting went well. Howell stated that it was a small crowd but he felt it went well also.

NEW BUSINESS:

IL Headwaters RC & D Application – Howell stated that the RC & D has completed their application and is in need of a resolution of endorsement and a letter of support from the District as a sponsor. Schott made and Wissmiller seconded a motion for the District to sign the resolution of endorsement and do the letter of support for the RC & D. Motion passed four to zero.

Budget Committee Report – Peters stated that the budget committee had met and discussed cuts that could be made to the budget due to the lack of funding. Items that can be cut or reduced are the newsletter, discussion was held on going digital to reduce the cost of mailing and printing. Cutting the training budget, office expense, scholarship and not paying the AISWCD dues now. Even with those cuts the District would still be in a deficit budget.

O'Connor stated that the discussion at the LUC meeting had been about funding. However he felt that not everyone was looking at the lack of funding as being as big an issue as others.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT –Howell stated that Kids Day is the 17th and 18th from 10am-2pm both days. He stated that he can still use volunteers and if someone can only help one day then Thursday would be better. Anyone who can help should let him know and he will work out a schedule with them. He also stated that the tree sale is going slow but the fish sale is doing well.

AC REPORT – AC Settle informed those on the board that did not know that she had applied for a permanent position with the Iroquois County FSA but had not gotten the job. She also told them that she will be going on Wednesday to pick up her Linc Pass ID card in Chicago.

DC REPORT – Gotkowski stated that he had not gotten a report printed out because there were computer problems that morning. He gave a summary of what would have been in it. There has been 1 application for a seasonal high tunnel approved, he has done 10 wetland determinations, WHIP & EQIP applications are still being taken with batching periods every two weeks.

FSA Executive Director Ed Brown stated that he was contacted by the leasing officer last month regarding the lease on the building which is up in June 2011. The space that will be allotted for leasing will be about 3300 square feet which is about ½ of what there is now. It will be approximately 40% less space for NRCS and 40% less space for FSA. A target area has been laid out covering the area of North Street to the South, Career Center Road to the West, St. George Road to the North and 4000 Road to the East. Property owners in the target area will be able to submit bids. Paperwork has been completed and is being sent through the appropriate channels. He also stated that sign ups for the farm programs are going slow. The deadline is June 1st and as of now there is not going to be any late sign ups.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

The next regular District Board meeting will be April 12, 2010 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Wissmiller made and Peters seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion passed four to zero. The meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.