

KANKAKEE COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Minutes March 14, 2011

The Kankakee County Soil and Water Conservation District held its regular monthly meeting Monday March 14, 2011. Chairman Jeff O'Connor called the meeting to order at 6:45 pm. Present were Directors Jeff O'Connor and Alan Wissmiller, Associate Directors Larry Kirchner and John Settle, Conservation District Manager Rich Howell, Administrative Coordinator Linda Settle and FSA Executive Director Ed Brown. Director Dave Peters arrived at 6:55 pm. Absent were Directors Brian Grob, and Erich Schott, Associate Directors Charlie Cyr and Alex Panozzo, District Conservationist Kelly German. Guest in attendance was Shannon Settle.

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

Appointment of Associate Directors – Peters 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 three to zero.

Restructure of Committees – Discussion was held with Wissmiller making and Peters seconding a motion to keep the committee structure as is. Motion passed three to zero.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Minutes of February 14, 2011 Board Meeting: Wissmiller made and Peters seconded a motion to approve the minutes as printed. Motion passed three to zero.

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

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

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

CORRESPONDENCE: Included were a thank you for the payment of 4th quarter AISWCD dues, an email asking for volunteers for the Field Museum "Scientist in the Field", a memo from IDOA stating that recipients of government money for cost share programs need to be informed that contractors must pay prevailing wage and an email from the FSA District Director stating that SWCD's may continue working in the event the federal government shuts down at the discretion of the individual District boards.

OLD BUSINESS:

Erosion & Sediment Control Service Update – Howell stated that there has been nothing this month.

NRI Approval – Howell stated that there has been nothing.

RC & D – Howell stated that everyone has been asked to bring to the next meeting one project in the local foods area to spend money on. Recommendation has been made to lower the dues or to cease dues completely until recognition from USDA is received.

Windfarm Update – Howell stated that Kankakee County is no closer to beginning but that they are moving in Iroquois County.

Wireless Internet for the Laptop – Discussion was held on the options available that had been tabled from last month's meeting. Wissmiller made and Peters seconded a motion to get the Verizon Mi Fi, free equipment, \$20 mo. /1 GB with a two year contract. Motion passed three to zero.

LUC Meeting – Howell stated that this was the longest LUC meeting he had ever attended. A resolution of no confidence against the AISWCD and Rich Nichols due to the lack of leadership was passed. Howell also stated that O'Connor's term as chair of the LUC has ended.

Kid's Day at the Farm – Howell stated that Kid's Day is Wednesday, March 16th and Thursday, March 17th, 10 am – 2 pm.

NEW BUSINESS:

DNR Expansion of Recreational Opportunities Program – Howell stated that the District has the opportunity to receive a grant for \$20,000 over 18 months from FSA as part of the CREP program. The grant is to help compensate the District for time spent helping to find landowners who would sign contracts allowing fishing and hunting on their property. Wissmiller made and Peters seconded a motion to have O'Connor sign the contract with DNR for the grant. Motion passed three to zero.

Annual Plan of Work – Howell stated that some work had been done on the FY12 Annual Plan of Work with some more to be done. Further discussion was tabled until the April meeting.

REPORTS – In addition to printed reports, if necessary

RC REPORT – Howell stated that he had met with Rep. Lisa Dugan, discussing funding issues for SWCD's. She likes the model that U of I Extension has developed. She stated that when there is not as much money, changes have to be made to the way things are done.

AC REPORT – AC Settle stated that there are 6 orders for the fish sale and 1 order for the tree sale to date. She also stated that all but 3 of the advertisers for the newsletter had renewed their ads.

DC REPORT – Not in attendance.

FSA REPORT – Executive Director Ed Brown stated that March 14th – April 15th is general sign up for CRP. This would include new contracts or renewals on contracts. There are 2 people interested at this time. USDA's goal is to maintain 32 million acres nationwide. He also stated that he contacted the leasing officer for an update. The lease for this office expires June 30th but they are only working on leases that have already expired. Brown then stated that Friday is the last day of the continuing resolution for the federal government therefore FSA may not be at work on Monday.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

The next regular District Board meeting will be April 11, 2011 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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