



Board Meeting

Date: Monday, March 11, 2024, 5:00pm

USDA Service Center, Yorkville, IL

Present:	Absent:
Kerri Horton, Vice Chairman Scott Kaufmann, Treasurer Rita Feltes, Secretary Deanna Bazan, Director Alyse Olson, Resource Conservationist Ariel Beauchamp, Education Coordinator Nicole Schneider, Administrative Coordinator Megan Andrews, Soil Conservationist	Butch Konicek, Chairman Seth Wormley, Kendall County Board Liaison

5:32 pm:

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Kerri Horton, Vice Chairman.

Horton called for additions to the agenda. The following action was taken:

Motion to approve the agenda by: Deanna Bazan; 2nd by Scott Kaufmann- Motion Carried.

5:33 pm:

Minutes for Approval

- Horton called for approval of the February board meeting minutes.

The following action was taken:

Motion to approve the February board meeting minutes by: Scott Kaufmann; 2nd by Deanna Bazan– Motion Carried.

5:34 pm:

Financial Reports

Olson highlighted the FY24 Operations deposit of \$69,958.76 (1st batch). A second batch of funding, which will include FY24 Program dollars and the remaining Operations funding, should be coming by May. Olson also highlighted that the QuickBooks annual subscription will increase by an additional \$299 for this year.

The following action was taken:

Motion to approve the February Treasurer’s Report and advise staff to offset QuickBooks subscription cost with extra office equipment budget by: Rita Feltes; 2nd by Scott Kaufmann – Motion Carried.

5:39 pm:

Reports

- Committees Personnel/Finance, Policy, Education, Strategic Planning:**

No reports at this time.

- NRCS:** Written report provided by Erika Luft & included in packet. Highlights provided by Megan Andrews include:

- o District Conservationist (DC) Update: Panel of applicants was turned back in, position open through 3/19
- o Yorkville Soil Conservationist Position: Open through 3/15
- o Continuing Resolution: Congress passed appropriations through September for FY24
- o Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Kendall had 8 applications, ranking deadline is 3/22

- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): Continuous CRP sign up open, first batching period cutoff is 3/15
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): Andrews shared that Kendall County is part of the Improving Oak Ecosystem Habitat in the Great Lakes Region RCPP. To date, we have had a few inquiries and officially received one application. Our partners with the American Bird Conservancy (ABC) will be supporting applications and assisting with technical assistance.
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): Andrews is working on compatible use agreements for 2 Kendall easements, 1 of the easements will receive a burn in April

3. SWCD:

- EC- Ariel Beauchamp: Report provided as written with highlights on the following:
 - Beauchamp reached 1,288 students and worked with 57 teachers in February
 - Attended IL Ag. In The Classroom (AITC) meeting with many partners present to provide updates
 - Annual grant is due July 19th
 - Summer Ag. Institute will be held in June this year instead of July. June 18th will be Kendall's day. Bazan asked about what teachers will learn about on our day. Beauchamp shared that teachers will hear from IL Ag. In the Classroom.
 - Farm Safety Camp will be co-hosted with Grundy County AITC this year. Bazan asked about the location. Beauchamp shared that it will stay at Kellogg Farms.
 - Beauchamp shared that she met the new Farm Bureau Manager, Angelica.
- RC- Alyse Olson: Report provided as written with highlights on the following:
 - Pond seminar hosted on 3/6 in partnership with Grundy County SWCD & IL Dept. of Natural Resources (IDNR) was well attended. Seth Love, with IDNR, did a great job presenting.
 - Olson attended IDOA's Regional Meeting on 2/28 & shared highlights
 - Olson attended Winnebago County SWCD's annual Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Workshop on 3/7 & shared highlights from a presenter who discussed solar site development
 - Olson shared the dates for our upcoming sales: Fish – April 17th & Tree – April 25th
- AC- Nicole Schneider: No report as March 11th was her 1st day

4. Kendall County Board: No report at this time.

5. IDOA: Verbal updates given by Beauchamp.

6. AISWCD: Verbal updates given by Beauchamp. Highlights include:

- 2024 NACD Stewardship Week Theme: "May the Forest be With You Always"
- AISWCD's 76th Annual Meeting & Summer Training will be held on July 14-16, 2024 in Springfield

7. LUC 3: Verbal updates given by Beauchamp. Highlights include:

- Next meeting will be held on March 14th
- LUC III Envirothon competition will be held on March 12th in Pontiac, IL. Beauchamp, Olson & Schneider will be attending

8. ISWCDEA / Insurance Committee: Verbal updates given by Olson. Highlights include:

- February invoices have been received and paid

5:57 pm:

Old Business:

1. **Timesheets Review & Approval:** Staff February timesheets were presented for review and approval. The following action was taken:
Motion to approve February Timesheets by: Scott Kaufmann; 2nd by Deanna Bazan – Motion Carried.
2. **Tree Planting Initiative:** Olson shared some background on the Tree Planting Initiative & shared that trees will be delivered to Springfield on March 28th or 29th. Kendall County is one of the 9 pickup sites. Trees should be delivered to our office the same day they are delivered to Springfield. Kane, Kankakee & LaSalle Counties will pick up trees from our office.
3. **AC Position Contract Review & Approval:** Nicole Schneider was hired for the AC position & she was welcomed by the room. The following action was taken:
Motion to approve AC Position Contract by: Scott Kauffmann; 2nd by Rita Feltes – Motion Carried.
4. **Director Vacancy:** Directors would like this to stay on the agenda to continue to discuss how to invite more individuals to become associate directors.

6:07 pm:

New Business

1. **Natural Resources Information Reports Review & Approval:** NRI Reports 2403-2410 were presented for review and approval. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve NRI Reports 2403-2410 by: Deanna Bazan; 2nd by Scott Kaufmann – Motion Carried.**
2. **FY24 PFC Practice Component List Review & Approval:** Olson presented the FY24 PFC Practice Component List provided by IDOA. Discussion ensued. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve the FY24 PFC Practice Component List by: Deanna Bazan; 2nd by Scott Kaufmann – Motion Carried.**
3. **Potential Interagency Coordination Agreement (ICA) between Kane-DuPage SWCD & Kendall County SWCD for Soil Erosion & Sediment Control (SESC) Services for the Village of Montgomery:** Olson presented the proposal from Kane-DuPage SWCD to establish an ICA between the two districts for Kendall to assist Kane-DuPage with SESC inspections for projects within the Village of Montgomery. The board expressed concern about the time commitment involved. Olson provided numbers that Kane-DuPage provided her including an estimated workload of 4-6 hours of field work & 1-3 hours of office work per month. The board wondered if that would be do-able once the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ICA began. Discussion ensued. Olson will reach out to Kane-DuPage SWCD for further discussion.
4. **Paid Leave for All Workers Act Update:** Olson attended a webinar hosted by AISWCD & ISWCDEA. She presented two conditions of our personnel policy that may need updating. Discussion ensued. Bazan will look into this further.

6:43 pm:

Correspondence: See board packet.

- AISWCD: E-newsletter
- IDOA: Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreements (AIMAs) for Konicek 1 Solar, LLC & Solar Provider Group, LLC (Blue Oak Community Solar) solar projects
- NACD: None
- NRCS: None
- Updates: FREP, Chicago Wilderness, The Conservation Foundation: Chicago Wilderness e-newsletter

6:44 pm:

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Scott Kaufmann, 2nd by Nicole Schneider – Motion Carried.

Our next regular board meeting is scheduled for April 8th, 2024, 5:00pm at the Yorkville USDA Service Center.

Minutes Submitted by: Alyse Olson