



Board Meeting

Date: Monday, April 8, 2024, 5:00pm

USDA Service Center, Yorkville, IL

Present:	Absent:
Kerri Horton, Chairwoman Scott Kaufmann, Treasurer Rita Feltes, Vice Chairwoman Deanna Bazan, Secretary Alyse Olson, Resource Conservationist Ariel Beauchamp, Education Coordinator Nicole Schneider, Administrative Coordinator Megan Andrews, Soil Conservationist Nancy Cinatl, The Conservation Foundation	Seth Wormley, Kendall County Board Liaison Zach Bachmann, Kendall County Board Liaison Erika Luft, Acting District Conservationist

5:22 pm:

Call to Order

Meeting was called to order by Kerri Horton, Chairwoman.

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.

5:22 pm:

Minutes for Approval

1. Horton called for approval of the March board meeting minutes.

The following action was taken:

Motion to approve the March board meeting minutes by: Scott Kaufmann; 2nd by Rita Feltes – Motion Carried.

2. Horton called for approval of the March 11th Personnel Committee meeting minutes.

The following action was taken:

Motion to approve the March 11th Personnel Committee meeting minutes by: Scott Kaufmann; 2nd by Deanna Bazan – Motion Carried.

5:23 pm:

Financial Reports

Nicole Schneider highlighted the checks issued for the month are as normal and the deposits from the NRI reports were nearly \$15,000. Schneider referenced the Profit and Loss Budget Performance Report noting: Total income exceeds total budget income by \$40,000 – RC has \$120 remaining in Educational Trainings category – Expecting funds from Beef Producers and Kendall-Grundy Farm Bureau (606 & 604.1) - \$13 remaining in Direct Deposit Expenses, we may want to increase this for next years budget.

The following action was taken:

Motion to approve the March Treasurer’s Report by: Rita Feltes; 2nd by Scott Kaufmann – Motion Carried.

5:25 pm:

Reports

1. **Committees: Personnel/Finance, Policy, Education, Strategic Planning:**

No reports at this time.

2. **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 re-opened & interviews are expected to be conducted soon

- Yorkville & Ottawa Soil Conservationist Positions: Application period has closed, and a panel will likely be selected soon
- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP): Kendall had 8 applications that were ranked, 3 of those were pre-approved for funding
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP): Ranking deadline is May 3rd, Kendall does not have any applications
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP): Kendall has 1 re-enrollment & 0 new CRP contracts
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP): Andrews shared an update on the 2 RCPP applications for Kendall County and shared that the daily tasks for those projects are ongoing. Bazan had a question about if our whole district group was eligible for RCPP. Andrews shared that there are different types of RCPP & eligibility varies based on the type of RCPP.
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP): Andrews is working on compatible use agreements for 2 Kendall easements, 1 of the easements was supposed to receive a burn in April but it will likely take place this fall instead

3. SWCD:

- EC- Ariel Beauchamp: Report provided as written with highlights on the following:
 - Beauchamp reached 393 students in March
 - The lesson for April & May is on Pollinators
 - Beauchamp highlighted the Envirothon competition. The top 3 teams included Morris #2 (1st place), Morris #1 (2nd place) and GAVC (3rd place). Discussion ensued.
- RC- Alyse Olson: Report provided as written with highlights on the following:
 - The FY23 PFC sign-up closed on March 29th
 - We had 1 new landowner express interest in cover crops during the sign-up period.
 - We have 3 PFC projects in process – 1 grassed waterway, 1 raingarden & 1 pollinator planting
 - Olson shared that she spent time this past month catching up on NRIs, coordinating the tree planting event with 4-H & working with Nicole each day on administrative tasks.
 - Olson shared that she will be taking vacation days on June 6, 7 & 10.
- AC- Nicole Schneider: Report provided as written with highlights on the following:
 - Spring Sales
 - Draft FY25 budget
 - Sexual Harassment Training Course
 - OMA & FOIA Trainings
 - First month a success!

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

5. IDOA: Verbal updates given by Olson. Highlights include:

- Field verifications for the IDOA Fall Covers for Spring Savings cover crop discount program will be due to IDOA by April 15th. The program was very successful again this year.

6. AISWCD: Verbal updates given by Olson.

7. LUC 3: Verbal updates given by Olson. Highlights were previously covered earlier in the meeting.

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

- March health insurance invoices have been received and paid

5:44 pm:

Old Business:

1. **Timesheets Review & Approval:** Staff March timesheets were presented for review and approval. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve March timesheets by: Deanna Bazan; 2nd by Scott Kaufmann – Motion Carried.**
2. **Tree Planting Initiative:** Olson shared that our tree planting date of April 6th was postponed to April 20th due to wet site conditions. There was discussion on the cicada emergence & their impact on new, young trees. Nancy Cinatl shared that young trees can be covered with tulle during the cicada emergence to protect them. There was also discussion on the upcoming University of Illinois Extension cicada workshop in Yorkville on April 17th.
3. **Director Vacancy:** Directors would like this to stay on the agenda to continue to discuss how to invite more individuals to become associate directors.
4. **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 provided background information & shared that Kane-DuPage & Kendall SWCDs would revisit this when Olson has a better understanding of the workload that will be required from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers agreement.
5. **Paid Leave for All Workers Act Update:** Bazan updated that the flyer has been legally posted.

5:54 pm:

New Business

1. **Natural Resources Information Report Review & Approval:** Olson presented NRI Report 2411 for review and approval. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve NRI Report 2411 by: Scott Kaufmann; 2nd by Rita Feltes – Motion Carried.**
2. **Sub-Committee Organization:** Olson shared that each year after the organization of the board, we review sub-committee appointments & make necessary updates & changes. Olson presented a proposed outline of sub-committees & members. Kaufmann offered to serve on the NRI sub-committee to allow for the discussion & signing of NRI reports during the months that we do not have board meetings. The NRI reports will then be voted on at the following board meeting. Bazan asked if anyone was interested in joining the Education sub-committee, which meets 4 times a year. Feltes offered to serve on the Education sub-committee.
3. **PFC Ranking Form Approval:** Olson presented the PFC ranking form & provided background information. Discussion ensued. The following action was taken: **Motion to approve the PFC Ranking Form by: Deanna Bazan; 2nd by Scott Kaufmann – Motion Carried.**
4. **Spring Sales:** Dates of the upcoming sales were shared (Fish: April 17th, Trees: April 25th). Nancy Cinatl asked how we go about selecting the trees & fish for our sales. Discussion ensued. Bazan provided a detailed description of how the fish sale & tree sale days go. Bazan has also been promoting the spring sales at The Conservation Foundation's "The Fox River: Our Hidden Gem" presentation series. Feltes shared that her trailer is cleaned out & ready for the trees. Olson shared that the trailer can be dropped off at Winding Creek as little as the day before the sale. Feltes shared that she will drop it off a few days in advance & can pick it up the morning of the tree sale. Kauffmann offered to help sort trees the morning of the sale.
5. **Draft FY25 Budget:** The next Finance Committee meeting to discuss the FY25 budget will be on May 13th at 5pm
6. **Personnel Policy:** Bazan shared that our personnel policy is, for the most part, in compliance with the Paid Leave for All Workers Act. However, minor updates are needed. The Personnel Committee will meet on May 13th after the Finance Committee to discuss updates to the personnel policy.

6:18 pm:

Correspondence: See board packet.

- AISWCD: E-newsletter

- IDOA: FY 24 Cover Crop Discount Program Memo, Agricultural Impact Mitigation Agreement (AIMA) Letters for Beecher Solar 1, LLC & Newark Road Kendall Solar 1, LLC solar projects
- NACD: None
- NRCS: None
- Updates: FREP e-newsletter, Chicago Wilderness e-newsletter, The Conservation Foundation e-newsletter

6:28 pm: **Adjournment: Motion to adjourn by Megan Andrews, 2nd by Rita Feltes – Motion Carried.**

Our next regular board meeting is scheduled for June 10th, 2024, 5:00pm at the Yorkville USDA Service Center.

Minutes Submitted by: Alyse Olson