

KANE\_DUPAGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Board Meeting Notes – July 11, 2024

Call to order - Chairman Konen called meeting to order at 6:03 pm, at 2315 Dean Street, Suite 100, St. Charles, IL. Directors present: Bossenga, Konen, Pauling, Piper and Soliz. Associate Directors present: Campbell. Staff present: Gerdts, Keuning, McPartlan (zoom), Purdom, Borzeka. NRCS staff present: none. Absent: none.

**Approval of Agenda:** Motion made by Pauling to accept the meeting agenda and seconded by Soliz, and **motion carried**.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion made by Soliz to accept the minutes from the June 13, 2024 meeting and seconded by Piper, and **motion carried**. Corrections: none.

**Public Comment:** none

**Correspondence:**

- FREP 2025 membership dues for KDSWCD and Jelkes. Determined that KDSWCD should re-enroll. Holding Jelkes pending Watershed Plan Grant received.
- Invitation from AISWCD to Illinois State Fair Twilight Parade 5:30 pm on August 8
- Recognition from AISWCD for KDSWCD event schedule excellence
- AFT cover crop cost share program

**Time Sheets:** Motion made by Soliz to accept the timesheets PPE 6/21 and 7/5, and seconded by Pauling; and **motion carried**.

**Staff Reports:**

**Administrative Coordinator** – (see attached)

**Resource Conservationist** – (see attached)

**Resource Analysts** – (see attached)

**Resource Assistant** - (see attached)

**District Conservationist** – (see attached)

**Conservation Planner** (none)

**Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Review:** Motion made by Soliz to approve NRIs 24-056 thru 24-065, still exception for 24-053 seconded by Pauling, and **motion carried**.

**Board Action Items:**

- Approve Executive Session July 2, 2024, re Director Piper counseling. Summation: individual directors do not speak for the Board as a whole, awaiting new Code of Ethics from AISWCD, this situation taken as a learning experience for everyone. Motion made by Soliz to accept the session outcome, and seconded by Pauling, and **motion carried**.

- Remaining 2024 Board Meeting start times:
  - Aug 8 – 6pm
  - Sep 12 – 6pm
  - Oct 10 – 6pm
  - Nov 14 – 6 pm
  - Dec 12 – 4pm with holiday party to follow

**Financial report and current bills:** Gerdts noted the strong the finish to FY24 which will help counter challenges of FY25 and is a testament to the caliber of the staff. Expectation is FY25 will be similar and overcome the budget projections. Anticipate freeze on overtime, increases and bonuses could be lifted. Motion made by Soliz to accept the financial report and pay current bills, seconded by Pauling, and **motion carried.**

#### **Committees:**

**Personnel:** Bossenga – not related to personnel but has been recruiting Kane county schools for Envirothon 2025

**Urban:** Piper – reviewing IUM in support of update project

**Agriculture:** Pauling – weather is spotty, causing challenges in the fields. Attending Presidents Meeting for Farm Bureau at the end of the month

**Legislative:** Soliz – resigned from position as AISWCD secretary for personal reasons

**Grants:** Gerdts – reported no action on the Jelke Watershed Plan grant application; IUM grant committee meetings are being in progress; pursuing Aurora grant for It's Your Fox River Day in September; applied for Riverboat grant to fund the SESC application automation; AFT grant for August Women in Ag event, plus AFT has secured a Compeer grant for additional sessions in Feb & Apr 2025.

#### **New Business:**

- St Charles MOU draft overview. Keuning reports an additional meeting is required before the final version can be presented to the KDSWCD and STC Boards for approval
- Staff contracts for 2025 will be presented at the August meeting
- Fiscal Review 2024 confirmed for August 1. Motion made by Pauling to accept Patty Foster's engagement letter, and seconded by Bossenga, and **motion carried.**

#### **Old Business:**

- Technical Team – Borzeka reported
  - Villa Park NRI requirements – no further applications received
  - Kane County zoning changes have increase
  - Tracking workload to determine what NRI fee schedule changes will be implemented on Jan 1, 2025 and whether no report letters should resume being charged for. Discussion ensued. Awaiting results of the audit. Last NRI fee adjustment was 2021.
- Sugar Grove MOU discussion. Proposal is on hold pending KDSWCD/Sugar Grove administration meeting to determine how to move forward after the unapproved communication by Director Piper on the Crown project. A “loss of trust” of KDSWCD by Sugar Grove was reported. Discussion ensued. Piper raised a concern of the appearance of conflict of interest for Chairman Konen due to family connections in Sugar Grove. Soliz assured those connections were distant and irrelevant. Konen and Gerdts to schedule meeting with Sugar Grove to determine next steps.
- Documents executed for contact and signer changes at Sterling, INB and Illinois Funds

**Motion** made by Soliz and seconded by Piper to adjourn at 8:05 pm, and **motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,  
William Pauling  
Secretary/Treasurer

KG (edited 8-9-24)