

KANE_DUPAGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Notes – August 8, 2024

Call to order - Chairman Konen called meeting to order at 6:00 pm, at 2315 Dean Street, Suite 100, St. Charles, IL. Directors present: Bossenga, Konen, Pauling and Piper. Associate Directors present: Carlson. Staff present: Gerdts, McPartlan, Purdom, Borzeka. NRCS staff present: Brennan. Absent: Soliz.

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

Approval of Minutes: Piper initiated discussion to delete “misrepresented the District position” from Old Business: Sugar Grove MOU discussion. Also amend spelling error – no “e” on Crown. Discussion paused to continue with other business, discussion resumed after Executive Session.

Public Comment:

- Bob – said as an engineer, he has reviewed the NRI regarding the proposed Sugar Grove Crown development. Question re 500 ft on Rt 47 near his home that will be affected. NRI indicates soils are marginal and the water table will be affected. He believes that the NRI says that Crown “should not do this work”. He asked who is to blame when such data is not taken into account, who says “no” to projects and who pays for getting issues fixed. He asked if KDSWCD will stand behind their NRI.
- Dan – Blackberry Township resident said the Sugar Grove Crown Development NRI indicates that less than 4% of the proposed project should have basements. He said the statistics show that very little of this land is not “limited”. He said the report states it should remain farmland. He asked if KDSWCD will stand by the NRI report.
- Sheila – Elburn resident said the Crown project will have tax and traffic implications for her. She indicated that Sugar Grove is creating “hoops” to make it too hard for residents to attend the zoning meetings. She asked who paid KDSWCD to generate the NRI. She indicated that she believes the data in the NRI to be true. She said that tax payer voices should be heard. She asked if KDSWCD would back the NRI. She spoke of the lack of residents’ trust of their communities.

McPartlan spoke about the state mandate for obtaining NRIs for proposed development. He confirmed that Crown paid for the NRI as the applicant. He indicted the NRI is a compilation of factual, relevant data and that the report template is always being improved. He said currently the data is based upon the USDA Soil Web Survey and noted their disclaimer. He indicated that no physical soil samples are taken for the purposes of these NRIs, that is beyond the scope of the current NRI format and the budget. He also noted that KDSWCD is not a regulatory authority and is a neutral party. He indicated that it is the responsibility of the municipality and county to use the data provided to make good decisions.

Konen added that engineers are also responsible to take NRI data into account.

Piper noted that it is a “social injustice” if projects move forward that will likely fail and that it is disappointing to have to wait for a failure to get a resolution.

Gerdts firmly noted that KDSWCD stands behind the NRIs. She expressed being offended at the apparent questioning of the integrity of the District and the staff in regards to whether the District would stand by the facts.

Correspondence:

- Thank you note from Debra Jones PFC recipient
- Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation gala invitation
- NACD membership dues
- 2025 Stewardship Week theme announced “Home is where the Habitat is”

Time Sheets: Motion made by Piper to accept the timesheets PPE 7/19 and 8/5, and seconded by Pauling; and **motion carried.**

Staff Reports:

Administrative Coordinator – (see attached) Note: Ellen Kamps proposal to act as KDSWCD Public Affair Consultant for the Women in Ag event on Aug 29, utilizing the Kane County Farmland Protection Grant funds to pay Ms. Kamps fee. **Motion** made by Piper to approve, seconded by Bossenga, and **motion carried.**

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 Pauling to approve NRIs 24-053, 24-058, and 24-066 thru 24-075, seconded by Bossenga, and **motion carried.** Correction: 24-073 acreage error

Board Action Items:

- Request from Sugar Grove Community Development Director for KDSWCD attendance at Crown Development meetings Aug 12 (13-15) and Board Meeting Aug 20 – After discussion about the likelihood of meetings being long and the uncertainty of when or if KDSWCD staff would be asked to speak, the Board directed Gerdts to contact Sugar Grove and request:
 - A designated time for KDSWCD staff to speak at each meeting
 - Compensation for KDSWCD staff time
- Tabled for September
- St Charles MOU still awaiting finalization
 - Fiscal Review 2024 report not yet received

Financial report and current bills: Motion made by Piper to accept the financial report and pay current bills, seconded by Pauling, and **motion carried.**

Committees:

Personnel: Bossenga – has still been recruiting Kane county schools for Envirothon 2025, challenge encountered: curriculum schedule does not line up with Envirothon topics

Urban: Piper – none

Agriculture: Pauling – weather impacts in the fields. Attended Presidents Meeting for Farm Bureau, discussion of CO2 pipeline and the use of eminent domain

Legislative: Konen for Soliz – AISWCD working towards fall veto session to address budget cuts. Konen has volunteered as AISWCD Secretary for one year to fill the vacancy from Soliz’s resignation.

Grants: Gerdts – as noted in Board Report. IUM team continues to proceed. Konen noted that the IUM work was mentioned at the AISWCD Board Meeting.

New Business:

- AISWCD funding petition - Gerdts noted Directors were asked to obtain petition signatures. Blank copies were distributed to Directors.

Old Business:

- Ethics Documents – Konen reported that AISWCD passed a new code of conduct. Gerdts will distribute to the Directors for review and discussion is September

Motion made by Pauling and seconded by Piper to adjourn to Executive Session at 7:52 pm, and **motion carried.**

Returned to Regular Session at 8:17 pm, **motion** made by Piper to accept the Executive Session and seconded by Bossenga, and **motion carried.**

Discussion regarding July minutes verbiage continued. **Motion** made by Pauling to accept the minutes from the July 11, 2024 meeting as amended and seconded by Bossenga, and **motion carried.**

Motion made by Piper and seconded by Pauling to adjourn to at 8:23 pm, and **motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
William Pauling
Secretary/Treasurer

KG