

KANE_DUPAGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Notes – January 9, 2025

Call to order - Chairman Konen called meeting to order at 7:00 am, at 2315 Dean Street, Suite 100, St. Charles, IL. Directors present: Konen, Soliz; on zoom Bossenga, Pauling, Piper. Associate Directors present: none. Staff present: Gerdts, Hunter, McPartlan (zoom), Purdom, Borzeka. NRCS staff on zoom: Brennan. Guests on zoom: Shelly Ray, IDOA, Steve Warmowski, AISWCD.

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

Approval of Minutes: **Motion** made by Soliz to accept the minutes from the December 12, 2024 meeting and seconded by Piper, and **motion carried**

Public Comment: interested constituents Jane Halloran, NRCS, Wisconsin – resident South Elgin. Nick Longo, resident Batavia, semi-retired environmental specialist

Correspondence: Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds workshop. Request for Hunter and Soliz to attend. Motion made by Soliz to approve registration, travel and lodging expenses not to exceed \$400 per person, and seconded by Piper, and motion carried.

Time Sheets: Motion made by Soliz to accept the timesheets PPE 11/22 and 12/6, and seconded by Pauling; and **motion carried**.

Staff Reports:

Administrative Coordinator – (see attached)

Resource Conservationist – (see attached)

Resource Analysts – (see attached)

Resource Specialist - (see attached)

District Conservationist – (see attached) on paternity leave starting January 27

Conservation Planner (none)

IDOA

- ICover opens at the end of January. \$2.3 million per year over 3 years. No acreage cap. 3 year contract. Registration is first-come-first-served. 100% of scenario cost for new cover crops or new technology used to seed.
- No update on FY2025 grant agreement

Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Review: Motion made by Soliz to approve NRIs 24-113 thru 24-121, seconded by Pauling, and **motion carried**. Discussion: (1) Amend the reports with flyover image dates so that inconsistencies with photos taken during the site visit can be explained. Example: GIS imagery shows a stand of trees while the site visit photos document that the trees have already been removed. (2) Request for staff to provide a 5-year summary of NRI and SESC visits detailing municipality, acreage, current and proposed use.

Board Action Items:

- Tax Levy = Presentation by Josh Joseph/Peoria SWCD regarding the process of implementing a county tax levy. Josh to provide documents that Peoria presents annually (for next calendar year in Dec). At least 6 Districts state-wide are levying taxes. Peoria has been assessing a tax since 2009. Continued research approved.
 - State Statute provides permission for Districts to levy a tax. The language is open to some interpretation.
 - Paragraph (b) Section 9-107 (745 ILCS 10/9-107)
“A local public entity may annually levy or have levied on its behalf taxes upon all taxable property within its territory at a rate that will produce a sum that will be sufficient to: (i) pay the cost of insurance, individual or joint self-insurance (including reserves thereon), including all operating and administrative costs and expenses directly associated therewith...”
 - Districts should already be on file at the County Clerk’s office as potential taxing body.
 - Initial conversation directly with the County Clerk
 - Eligible expenses to pay with levied funds without a Truth in Taxation hearing
 - Liability Insurance
 - Workman’s Compensation Insurance
 - Unemployment Insurance
 - Social Security
 - Corporate = can include up to 10% of the AC salary (they manage the insurance and finances)
 - Up to 5% annual increase possible without Truth in Taxation Hearing
 - Documents submitted annually
 - Letter of Request
 - Condensed Budget
 - Certification of Tax Levy Ordinance
 - Copy of County Tax Levy Ordinance
 - District Certification of Budget & Appropriation Ordinance
 - Gerdts to pursue conversations with Kane and DuPage County Clerks. Initial discussion with a staff member of the Kane County Clerk’s office yielded only the recommendation to hire a tax attorney for this process. (Peoria did not utilize an attorney)
 - Pauling suggests proposing to the counties to provide funding outside of the tax provisions to simplify processing
 - Bossenga requests process for going dormant if KDSWCD decides to cease levying a tax.
- NRI 2025 Rates = 5% rate increase approved. Base fee \$500 with \$20 increase on each subsequent acre. Motion made by Piper to accept rates increase, seconded by Soliz, and **motion carried.**
- SESC 2025 Rates = 5% rate increase approved. Base fee \$500 with \$20 increase on each subsequent acre. Motion made by Piper to accept rates increase, seconded by Soliz, and **motion carried.**
- N. Cook/Kane DuPage SWCD MOU = Motion made by Soliz to enter into an MOU with N. Cook SWCD, seconded by Piper, and **motion carried.**
- Printer Replacement = Motion made by Piper to purchase the Canon copier proposed by Gordon Flesch Company, seconded by Bossenga, and **motion carried.**
- 2025 Election petitions and slates are due by January 21. Two constituents have inquired about candidacy but no petitions have yet been received.

Financial report and current bills: Motion made by Pauling to accept the financial report and pay current bills, seconded by Soliz, and **motion carried.** Note: IUM grant invoices continue to artificially inflate expenses until IEPA reimburses. Printer purchase to be funded by monies from IPTIP per Pauling.

Committees:

Personnel: *Bossenga* – none

Urban: *Piper* – none

Agriculture: *Pauling* – none

Legislative: *Konen* – Veto Session in progress in Springfield, no news yet.

Grants: *Gerds* – IUM grant payment from IEPA as noted above.

New Business: none

Old Business:

- Policies Sub-Committee met and developed a strategy and made task assignments. Next Meeting January 10
- Strategic Planning Sub-Committee: Lucas King has declined to proctor the KDSWCD planning process. He is seeking an alternate to refer. Gerds to inquire if AISWCD has a state-wide Plan that could be used to guide District efforts. Scheduling a committee meeting is postponed until these two items are clarified.
- Digitizing 1940's Kane County Map – Kane County Historical visited the map on Jan 8 and is very interested in assisting in its preservation. They will report back. We also identified collaboration opportunities on aerial imagery and historical photos.
- St Charles MOU – revised document removing NRCS is in hand for signature at St Charles
- Natural Area Guardian potential investigation on hold due to lack of resources at this time

March Meeting rescheduled to March 6 at 6pm

Motion made by Piper and seconded by Soliz to adjourn at 9:45 am, and **motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted,
William Pauling
Secretary/Treasurer

KG