

KANE_DUPAGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Board Meeting Notes – February 13, 2025

Call to order - Chairman Konen called meeting to order at 5:55 pm, at 2315 Dean Street, Suite 100, St. Charles, IL. Directors present: Konen, Bossenga (zoom), Pauling, Soliz. Absent: Piper. Associate Directors present: none. Staff present: Gerdts, Hunter, McPartlan (zoom), Purdom, Borzeka. NRCS staff present: 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 Pauling to accept the minutes from the January 9, 2025 meeting and seconded by Soliz, and **motion carried**

Public Comment: none

Correspondence: none

Time Sheets: Motion made by Soliz to accept the timesheets PPE 1/17 and 1/31, 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 – (none)

Conservation Planner (see attached)

Natural Resource Inventory (NRI) Review: Motion made by Soliz to approve NRIs 25-001 thru 25-012, seconded by Pauling, and **motion carried**. Discussion: (1) ensure enough street names appear on the maps to readily identify location (2) move Executive Summary to the beginning of the report.

Board Action Items:

- N. Cook/KDSWCD MOU Addendum for existing project inspection hours billing. Motion made by Pauling to append the addendum to the already approved MOU, seconded by Soliz, and **motion carried**.
- Envirothon cash donation. Motion made by Soliz to donate \$250, seconded by Pauling, and **motion carried**. Soliz will also pursue some industry connections for sponsorships.**Financial report and current bills:** Motion made by Pauling to accept the financial report and pay current bills, seconded by Soliz, and **motion carried**.

Committees:

Personnel: *Bossenga* – none

Urban: *Piper* – absent

Agriculture: *Pauling* – attended Will County Farm Bureau retirement celebration. DuPage has voted Henry Hyde's name be removed from the courthouse building. Farm Bureau President's meeting discussion included failing bridges on Motorola property, solar farms trend moving from leasing to buying land, impact of data centers, DeKalb building a new transfer farm, aging power grid.

Legislative: *Konen* – SB2387 has been filed in Springfield for Ag Land Conservation Act. SB1689 has been presented to reinstate SWCD funding levels. SB2325 IDOT in process of preparing SWCD roadside signs.

Grants: *Gerds* – IEPA funding for Jelkes 604B application still in limbo. Indications from IEPA is that funds availability is currently in question. Inquiry as to the status of the funds for the in-process IUM update 604B grant has not yet received a response. No update as yet on the proposed 604B application for Kane County water quality project. Per AISWCD, all NRCS funding with the exception of the Local Work Group Project has been suspended. Kane County continues to be supportive, note that any DEI verbiage must be removed from grant requests. Status of funding from Farm Bureau Foundation and/or Kane County for farmer insurance/child care workshop still in question. First report for RiverBoat grant supporting the NRI/SESC automation will be due in April. Discussion ensued on potential future projects to apply for RiverBoat funding (marketing plan to include website update?)

New Business:

- DeKalb SWCD benchmarking – add to Strategic Planning Committee agenda
- NRI 24-056 current status of the land – Board recommends to take no action
- SESC 20e033 timeline over-run for in-stream work – Board directs invoke the application clause for additional charges: additional one year fee \$3,600 with the notation that non-compliance issues may incur hourly rate as outlined on the application. As a courtesy, using the hourly rate listed on the 2020 application, as that is when the project originated. Note: Rates have since increased.
- 2315 Dean Street – Gerds outlined: the condition of the roof continues to deteriorate. Tenant Scholastic is moving out by April. Tenant from a neighboring building has apparently inquired about purchasing 2315 (it has been for sale for some years). Concern of the possibility of an impending rent increase, as well as uncertainty of the potential repercussions of the current federal government initiatives. Most current lease copy on file expired Nov 2017. Several available properties in the area were discussed in preparation of a need to move. Plans to work around a potential federal government shutdown on March 14 were also discussed.
- Soil Plan – Kane County Forest Preserve has requested “conservation plans” to help educate and incentivize their tenant farmers towards conservation practices. A Soil Plan template is being developed. NRCS is not participating in this planning at their request.
- Monitoring performance of two federal databases that are key to KDSWCD daily work: IEPA CDX and Web Soil Survey. Some irregularities reported on Web Soil Survey but still active at this time. Work arounds have been identified to implement in case of systems outages.

Old Business:

- Policies Sub-Committee met and developed a strategy and made task assignments – no updates, Board determined this initiative will become part of the Strategic Planning.
- Strategic Planning Sub-Committee: Gerds suggested Christina Foster of Foster What Matters as a plan facilitator. Directed by the Board to inquire as to her availability.
- Digitizing 1940’s Kane County Map – Board directs to return it to the archive file
- 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
- Tax Levy research – no update, integrate with strategic plan
- Five Year Summary Reports for NRI & SESC – no further questions
- Updates to NRI reports as requested are noted

Motion made by Soliz and seconded by Pauling to adjourn to Annual Review Meeting at 8:28 pm, and **motion carried.**

Motion made by Soliz and seconded by Pauling to accept the Annual Review Meeting, and **motion carried.**

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

Respectfully submitted,
William Pauling
Secretary/Treasurer

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