
North Cook County
Soil & Water
Conservation District

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

899 Jay Street in Elgin

August 13, 2009

(Key: P = Present; E = Excused Absence)

PRESENT:

Directors

P James Singer, Chair
P Bob Murzyn, Vice Chair
P Mark Toberman, Treasurer
P Leo Kinsch; Director
P Deborah Perryman

Associate Directors

P Agnes Wojnarski
P Jay Coleman
E Hart Kargenian

District Staff

P Rick McAndless, Resource Conservationist
P Tonya Canania, Administrative Coordinator

USDA - NRCS

P Jim Rospopo, District Conservationist

CALL TO ORDER:

Jim Singer called the meeting of the board of directors of the North Cook County Soil & Water Conservation District ('District') to order at 7:15 p.m.

MINUTES:

Bob Murzyn motioned to accept the meetings minutes as presented for the July 9th, 2009 District board meeting; seconded by Leo Kinsch.

*Approved.

FINANCIALS:

Reconciliation:

The board was presented with July financial statements and reconciliations for all Illinois Fund accounts held and the July Harris checking account. Mark Toberman motioned to accept reconciliations for all July IL Fund account statements and July Harris bank checking account; seconded by Bob Murzyn.

*Approved

Fiscal Year 2009 Budget Review: Budget Vs. Actual

Tonya reviewed and discussed with the board the budget vs. actual report for fiscal year 2009. The board also reviewed an Illinois Funds interest rate comparison and current balances of all accounts held by the District.

Fiscal Year 2010 Budgeting:

Tonya reviewed and discussed with the board a draft budget for fiscal year 2010, possible income sources and possible accounts payable reductions. With reductions and accounting for a possible contribution from Cook County the draft budget still revealed a significant deficit near \$27,000. The board will re-visit the draft during the September meeting taking into account any budgetary information the District may receive in the interim.

*Ongoing.

Old Business:

District Rain Barrel Fundraiser:

Tonya reported posting the flyer and ordering brochure at area Panera Bread stores and Jewel-Osco stores and sending it via email to local public works departments and partners. Over the coming fall and winter staff will pursue partnerships with park districts, municipalities and township offices to offer the ordering brochures and/or display a barrel within high traffic areas of their facilities and advertisement of the program within community newsletters.

Urban Resource Conservation: USDA-NRCS- Urban / Cook Co. Services:

The board discussed resource conservation needs within the District. The board also discussed past USDA-NRCS community conservation initiatives and programs applicable to urban resource needs. The board noted an ongoing decline in program availability and technical assistance provisions for the resources and populations of the District. The board will send letters to their members of the U.S. House and Senate in support of requests made by the National Associate of Conservation Districts, asking for continued support for the Conservation Technical Assistance program under the Conservation Operations account of the Agriculture bill. This funding is critical in providing both urban and rural landowners with natural resource conservation assistance. The board will also express support for language provided in the House Agriculture bill that maintains Resource Conservation & Development funding as a separate line item.

Association of Illinois' Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting: Reports

Jim Singer & Tonya reported on their attendance to the annual meeting and conference that was held in Springfield July 22-24, 2009. During the conference participants received a funding update from Illinois Department of Agriculture's Director Tom Jennings. Mr. Jennings past out a handout which entailed his projected breakdown of budgeting for Illinois' SWCDs operation grants for fiscal year 2010 (FY10). This

projection listed a possible \$44, 000 in allocations per SWCD for FY10. Mr. Jennings also reassured District directors and staff that employee health insurance payments would be secure for FY10. While at the conference Jim and Tonya also attended training sessions regarding SWCD marketing and the legal implications of SWCD operating suspensions or complete office closure due to funding instability or shortfall.

Requesting FY10 Cook County District Contribution:

Due to the increasing financial burdens of the District, the steady decline in grant funding from the Illinois Department of Agriculture and income generate by District programs the board has sent a letter to Cook County requesting a fiscal year 2010 contribution to the District for services provided to the residents of the county. No new information to report. No response, as of yet, to the District's letter of request.

House Resolution 163- Task Force Nomination:

Tonya reported that AISWCD Executive Director Richard Nichols has submitted the nomination. To date, neither the AISWCD nor Jim Singer has received any information indicating that final approval of the task force nominations has been made. No new information to report. The board is asked to continue reviewing the task force objectives and forward any comments, research, references or concerns to Tonya for collection.

New Business:

Fall Water Quality Luncheon:

Tonya discussed with the board options for the next District Water Quality Luncheon. The luncheon will likely take place in November as it did in 2008. The board also discussed hosting an Illinois Environmental Protection Agency- Nonpoint Pollution Detection & Elimination System (NPDES) workshop in the spring of 2010. The board will decide in September whether or not they would like to pursue both a luncheon and an NPDES workshop or if the District should only host one of these options.

O'Hare Modernization's Soil Erosion & Sediment Control Program- Rate Increase:

The board discussed whether or not to increase the hourly rate charged for inspections and reporting for the O'Hare program. Previously the board did not increase the rate on a yearly basis. This resulted in some difficulty in increasing the rate beyond the City of Chicago's set annual percentage caps on rate increases.

Deborah Perryman motioned to approve sending a 2.35% hourly rate increase request for work performed for the O'Hare program to the City of Chicago for review; seconded by Bob Murzyn. Mark Toberman recorded an opposing vote.

*Approved rate increase request.

O'Hare Kane-DuPage SWCD Agreement:

Rick McAndless reviewed and discussed with the board task orders for portions of the O'Hare Modernization Program previously offered to the Kane-DuPage SWCD for contract. The board discussed the current Illinois Department of Agriculture grant

funding cuts, program income decline and subsequent District budget deficits. Due to the serious nature instability of the District's fiscal year 2010 budget the board has requested that Rick contact the Kane-DuPage SWCD to discuss projects currently under review and those that are forthcoming. Regretfully, the board requested that the Kane-DuPage SWCD be notified that future negotiation may be needed in order return some billable work to this District in the event that budget deficits remain high enough to jeopardize staffing levels, financial obligations and/or continued operations at the District.

Committee Reports:

Bob Murzyn: Metropolitan Water Reclamation Department of Greater Chicagoland (MWRD) - Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Report:

No meeting to report. The next LUC16 quarterly board meeting is scheduled for August 28th and 10 a.m. at the DeKalb Co. Farm Bureau building in Sycamore.

Jim Singer & Tonya: Land Use Council 16 (LUC16) Quarterly Board Mtg. Reports: No new reports.

Tonya Canania: Land Use Council 16 (LUC16) Outreach Committee: No new reports.

Tonya Canania- LUC16 Leadership Outreach Committee: Update

Tonya reported that she and Rick will present the final revision of the StopErosionNow.org marketing and outreach plan during the upcoming LUC16 quarterly board meeting for second approval and transmission to the AISWCD Marketing Task Force for review.

Tonya Canania- LUC16 Leopold Education Project Scholarship Sub Committee:

No new report. The LEP Scholarship Sub Committee will meet via conference call August 18th.

Tonya Canania- LUC16 Display Board Design Sub Committee:

Tonya reported that the committee met to discuss possible designs. The committee has decided to design the background as a watershed that winds from rural to urban lands across the entire display. Photos of programs and practices will be overlaid to produce a call-out effect. The theme of the display will be the various projects and programs that the SWCDs of Land Use Council 16 offer. As such items that do not have a photo call-out will still be represented within the landscape of the watershed background. The committee has contacted a graphic artist who is willing to do the bulk of the display work free. The committee will ask the board members of LUC16 to consider the approval of a reduced fee for the work done. This display should be used as a talking point to facilitate discussions when used as a backdrop for various SWCD attended events.

Staff Reports:

Jim Rospopo; District Conservationist:

Jim reported on the Conservation Stewardship program, assisting Ford Co. NRCS with Conservation Reserve Program and that the Lake Co. SWCD board meetings have been moved to the seconded Thursday of the month. As Lake and North Cook board meetings are now on the same day Jim will only attend each SWCD's meetings every other month.

Rick McAndless, Resource Conservationist:

Rick reported on recent activities, the Habitat Restoration Program (Fox and Kishwaukee Rivers) and upcoming field inspections.

Tonya Canania, Administrative Coordinator:

Tonya reported working on the FY09 budget review, FY10 draft budget preparations, rain barrel fundraiser marketing, NE Illinois Envirothon 2010 sponsorship solicitations, her attendance to the Hillcrest Lake and Slough "Nature Palooza" in Prospect Heights, LUC16 committee work and LUC16 quarterly board preparations.

Bob Murzyn motioned to accept the reports as presented; seconded by Leo Kinsch.
*Approved.

Natural Resource Inventory Reports: No New Applications or Re-Submissions.

Next Meeting:

The board discussed Jim Rospopo's scheduling conflict due to the Lake Co. SWCD board meeting arrangements.

Bob Murzyn motioned to move the September board meeting to the third Thursday of the month; seconded by Leo Kinsch.

*Approved meeting date.

The September North Cook Co. SWCD board meeting will be held on September 17th, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m. by motion made by Mark Toberman and seconded by Leo Kinsch.