



Kane County

KC Agriculture Committee

Meeting Minutes

Government Center
719 S. Batavia Ave., Bldg. A
Geneva, IL 60134

KENYON, Roth, Allan, Juby, Lenert, Sanchez, Williams, ex-officios Pierog (County Chair) and Tepe (County Vice Chair)

Thursday, May 23, 2024

10:30 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Kenyon called today's meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Michael Kenyon Board Member Leslie Juby Board Member Bill Lenert Board Member Jarett Sanchez
REMOTE	Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Rick Williams
ABSENT	Board Member Bill Roth Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog Ex-Officio County Board Vice Chair Vern Tepe

Also present: Co. Bd. members Bates*, Kiou*, Lewis, Linder*, Molina*; KCFB Mgr. Arnold; Dev. Dir. VanKerkhoff and staff Tansley and Castro. Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; Spec. ASA Shepro; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public, including Pres. & Chief Operating Officer of Superb Meats Joe Pomaranski.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

Chairman Kenyon announced the remote attendance requests for today's meeting. He asked the Committee if there were any objections to Committee Members Allan and Williams attending the meeting remotely. There were no objections.

4. Approval of Minutes: April 18, 2024

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Bill Lenert

5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None.

6. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None.

7. Partners**A. Kane County Farm Bureau Updates (Steve Arnold, Manager)**

KCFB Mgr. Arnold stated that his team will be announcing the 24 scholarship winners in June's 2024 Kane County Farmer brochure. He announced that Fay's Drive-Thru Barbecue will be held at the Kane County Farm Bureau parking lot today from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Arnold noted that Farm Bureau Members who attend the Kane County Fair in July and bring a Farm Bureau coupon it will be redeemed for a free ice cream cone. Lastly, Arnold stated that the Illinois General Assembly is finishing up the Spring Legislative Session for the Farm Preservation Act. He stated that the current Estate Tax Exemption under Illinois Law is \$4M. If a farm estate exceeds \$4M, farmers will have to pay the state tax on the first dollar. He noted that there is legislation that would raise the Estate Tax Exemption to \$6M for farmers, and the tax would begin after the \$6M threshold.

8. Presentations/Announcements**A. Livestock Market Assessment Key Takeaways (Matt Tansley, Planner)**

Dev. Planner Tansley announced that the Livestock Market assessments have been finalized. He stated that the purpose of system capacity models is to identify constraints in the local livestock production supply chain that inhibit the system's ability to fulfill consumer demand. A qualitative analysis examines narrative feedback for core stakeholder groups such as farmers, processors, and buyers, to prioritize issues affecting how the local livestock market functions. A quantitative analysis examines the effect of land access and processing capacity on the local livestock market based on available data. Tansley highlighted the market access goals and strategies which include correcting the value-chain misalignment between producers and processors, develop a skilled workforce in meat processing, and support farm and processor growth and expansion. Tansley addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

Pres. & Chief Operating Officer of Superb Meats Joe Pomaranski shared information about his wholesale food distributor in Wisconsin. He stated that the company currently manufactures 20 truckloads of ground beef each month, and 15 truckloads of ground chicken for the Feeding America Network.

B. Water Resources Updates (Jodie Wollnik, Director)

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik announced that the Development Department signed a grant agreement with Hey and Associates, Inc. to conduct three demonstration projects on local farms to show the types of practices to other farmers. Wollnik stated that she will have updates on those demonstrations at the next Committee meeting.

C. Farmland Protection Program Applications (Sarahy Castro, Farmland Preservation Administrator)

Farmland Preservation Adm. Castro announced that Kane County Protected Farmland celebrated their 23rd year on April 10th. She shared several slides showing zoning information on the two farmland applicants in Kane County. Castro stated that the application provides the opportunity to address land conservation, along with habitat protection, water quality, and soil health.

D. Amendment to Ellen Kamps Contract Resolution (Mark VanKerkhoff, Director)

Dev. Dir. VanKerkhoff stated that earlier this year the Development Department asked for qualified agricultural consultants to assist in the request for a proposal (RFP). New Venture Advisors (NVA) and Ellen Kamps were approved as qualified contractors by the County Board. He noted that two Farmland Preservation project's will be shifting from NVA to Ellen Kamps, and for this reason those budgets need to be adjusted accordingly. The total not-to-exceed amount will change from \$170K to \$290K for budgeting additional services under the existing contract. VanKerkoff recommended approval. He addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

9. New Business

A. Approving Two Applicants for Protection Through the Farmland Protection Program

KC Executive Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez
AYE:	Michael Kenyon, Deborah Allan, Leslie Juby, Bill Lenert, Jarett Sanchez, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Bill Roth, Corinne M. Pierog, and Vern Tepe

B. Amending a Contract with Ellen Kamps to Provide Additional Food and Agriculture Project Consulting Services

KC Finance and Budget Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Finance and Budget Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Michael Kenyon
AYE:	Michael Kenyon, Deborah Allan, Jarett Sanchez, and Rick Williams

NAY:	Leslie Juby, and Bill Lenert
ABSENT:	Bill Roth, Corinne M. Pierog, and Vern Tepe

C. Amending the Growing for Kane Fund FY2024 Budget to Account for the Land Transfer Navigator Grant Program

KC Finance and Budget Committee

RESULT:	MOVED FORWARD BY ROLL CALL VOTE
TO:	KC Executive Committee
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez
SECONDER:	Bill Lenert
AYE:	Michael Kenyon, Deborah Allan, Leslie Juby, Bill Lenert, Jarett Sanchez, and Rick Williams
ABSENT:	Bill Roth, Corinne M. Pierog, and Vern Tepe

10. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Jarett Sanchez

11. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

12. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Lenert
SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez

This meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary