



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, October 19, 2023

10:00 AM

County Board Room

1. Call To Order

Chairman Kenyon called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

2. Roll Call

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

Also present: Co. Bd. members Bates*, Daugherty*, Kious*, Molina*, Strathmann*; Dev. staff Tansley, Hill, Thavong, Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik; ITD staff Peters; and members of the press and public including KCFB Manager Steve Arnold.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

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

4. Approval of Minutes: September 21, 2023

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Bill Roth

5. Public Comment (Agenda Items)

None.

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

KCFB Manager Steve Arnold announced several meetings that will be coming up including the Annual Illinois Farm Bureau in December, the American Farm Bureau Federation in January and the young-leader conference in February. One of the more popular meetings is the "Everything Local" Conference which is also held in January. Arnold reviewed the handouts he distributed including the Harvest Progress Report. Arnold also announced that during the month of October, Casey's will be placing promotional information on all of their carry-out pizza boxes highlighting the Illinois Farm Family Campaign. Arnold reminded the Committee that the Kane County Farm Bureau Foundation's fundraiser is taking place in their parking lot on Randall Road. There are mums, corn stalks, straw bales, and decorations available for purchase. Money raised will be used to support college scholarships and agriculture literacy programs. Arnold addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

B. Northern Illinois Food Bank Updates (Corey Incandela, Advocacy Specialist)

No report was made.

7. Presentations/Announcements**A. ARPA Applications Update (Mark VanKerkhoff, Director)**

Dev. Planner Tansley provided a presentation highlighting the ARPA projects that are being managed by the Development Department. They are seeking ARPA funding for five different project areas each of which are at different approval stages. The purpose of requesting these funds is to support existing projects and programs. At the same time, they will continue to apply for grand funding. Tansley laid out the process for the Committee. He highlighted two projects currently being worked on: the Agriculture Recovery and Sustainability Fund; and, the Kane County Tourism Recovery and Promotion for a Sustainable Future Fund. He provided background, details, and status of the projects. Tansley addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

B. Agriculture Recovery and Sustainability Fund Proposal (Matt Tansley, Planner)

Dev. Planner Tansley spoke on a proposal submitted by the Conservation Fund which is named the Farm Business Resiliency Project for Kane County. This includes a budget request of over \$2M. Because this is a larger request, it is imperative to review this more closely and proper due diligence in getting this approved at all the required levels. This project focuses on supporting food system resilience in Kane County as a result of the pandemic. This would provide support for land access, capital, and technical assistance to support businesses. Tansley explained how the program addresses these needs and listed other grants available to farmers. Tansley addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

C. Water Resources Updates (Jodie Wollnik, Director)

Environ. & Water Res. Dir. Wollnik stated they continue to work with the drainage districts on the various ARPA infrastructure improvements. Wollnik indicated that they have an opportunity for a federal grant. This grant would be for climate action. They will be addressing this at the Energy & Environment Committee. Sarah Hlnshaw, the new Sustainability Coordinator, will be working on this grant application with a focus on agriculture. Wollnik will keep this Committee up to date on the status. Wollnik addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

D. Agriculture Conservation Easements (Janice Hill, Executive Planner)

Dev. Exec. Planner Hill is looking forward to working with Wollnik and her team, in particular, Sarah Hlnshaw, on their grant. Hill provided a presentation on easements that have come out of the Farmland Protection Commission. She will be looking for the Committee's support on the resolution taking action on the easements. She provided additional information and background on the farmland protection program and the budget and grant process. Hill addressed questions and comments from the Committee.

8. New Business

None.

A. Approving Six Applicants for Protection Through the Kane County Farmland Protection Program

Hill addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Much discussion ensued.

KC Executive Committee

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

9. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Bill Roth

10. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

11. Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)

None.

12. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
MOVER:	Bill Roth
SECONDER:	Bill Lenert

This meeting was adjourned at 11:03 AM.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary