



# Kane County

## KC Agriculture Committee

### Agenda

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**
2. **Roll Call**
3. **Remote Attendance Requests**
4. **Approval of Minutes: September 21, 2023**
5. **Public Comment (Agenda Items)**
6. **Partners**
  - A. Kane County Farm Bureau Updates (Steve Arnold, Manager)
  - B. Northern Illinois Food Bank Updates (Corey Incandela, Advocacy Specialist)
7. **Presentations/Announcements**
  - A. ARPA Applications Update (Mark VanKerkhoff, Director) (attached)
  - B. Agriculture Recovery and Sustainability Fund Proposal (Matt Tansley, Planner) (attached)
  - C. Water Resources Updates (Jodie Wollnik, Director)
  - D. Agriculture Conservation Easements (Janice Hill, Executive Planner)
8. **New Business**
  - A. **Resolution:** Approving Six Applicants for Protection Through the Kane County Farmland Protection Program
9. **Reports Placed On File**
10. **Executive Session (if needed)**
11. **Public Comment (Non-Agenda Items)**
12. **Adjournment**

STATE OF ILLINOIS )

SS.

COUNTY OF KANE )

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-23-1467**

## KANE COUNTY FARM BUREAU UPDATES (STEVE ARNOLD, MANAGER)

STATE OF ILLINOIS )

SS.

COUNTY OF KANE )

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-23-1468**

## NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK UPDATES (COREY INCANDELA, ADVOCACY SPECIALIST)

STATE OF ILLINOIS )

SS.

COUNTY OF KANE )

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-23-1469**

## ARPA APPLICATIONS UPDATE (MARK VANKERKHOFF, DIRECTOR)

**(ATTACHED)**

# ARPA Applications Update

Development & Community Services Department

Agriculture Committee  
October 19, 2023



# Development & Community Services Department

Submitted five applications  
for Economic Recovery and Sustainability

- Fabulous Fox! Water Trail
- Countywide Economic Development
- Agriculture
- Manufacturing
- Tourism



# Development & Community Services Department

## Goals for Economic Recovery and Sustainability

- “Internal/External Applications” – funding to benefit the community
- Turbocharge existing programs and activities
- Keep applying for other grants
- Address economic recovery areas not being addressed by municipalities



# Development & Community Services Department

## Process for Working with the ARPA Team (Suzanne Fahnestock, KCSAO, EY)

- Complete Risk Assessments for each application and project
- Look for similar programs in other counties and states using ARPA funds
- Work with established, credible partners as subrecipients
- Note: ARPA Team has been flexible to accommodate grant deadlines!





# Development & Community Services Department

## Approved Funding levels for Economic Recovery and Sustainability Applications

- Fabulous Fox! Water Trail Promotion and Infrastructure Fund: \$1,240,000
- Economic Development Strategy and Organization for Kane County: \$3,790,000
- Kane County Agriculture Recovery and Sustainability Fund: \$2,280,000
- Kane County Manufacturing Recovery and Sustainability Fund: \$1,040,000
- Kane County Tourism Recovery and Promotion for a Sustainable Future Fund: \$1,588,000



# Kane County Agriculture Recovery and Sustainability Fund

\$2,280,000

2021/2022

Staff applied for outside grants – grants awarded include:

Regenerative Grazing Grant	2021	\$1,000
Donnelley Foundation Grant	2021-22	\$100,000
Compeer Feasibility Grant (2022)	2022	\$5,000
USDA Urban Agricultural Innovation	2022	\$299,185

Spring 2022

Kane County partners with Illinois Farmers Market Association to provide mini-grants (successful pilot)

December 2022

ARPA Team conducts Risk Assessment

2023

Two Projects:

1. Add funds to supplement grant for Livestock Assessment

**UPDATE: Assessment underway**

2. On-Farm Infrastructure Grants (The Conservation Fund)

**UPDATE: Resolution going to ARPA Committee**



# Kane County Tourism Recovery and Promotion for a Sustainable Future Fund \$1,588,000

2022                      Researched how counties are using ARPA funds for tourism  
2023                      Work with the Convention & Visitors Bureaus serving Kane County to provide  
ARPA                      funds for promoting tourism in Kane County:

**UPDATE: The Kane County Board approved the Elgin Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau to market tourism in Kane County on October 10, 2023.**



# Kane County Tourism Recovery and Promotion for a Sustainable Future Fund \$1,588,000

## The Elgin Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau will market tourism in Kane County by:

- Placing digital and print ads that will target drive markets already used by the Elgin Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, the Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau, and Illinois Office of Tourism.
- Target leisure markets will primarily include Chicago/Metro, Iowa/Quad Cities, Indiana/Indianapolis and Wisconsin/Southern with the greater Midwest region included based on messaging and relevancy.
- Ads will focus on niches relevant to Kane County/Elgin/Aurora Area: Fabulous Fox! Water Trail, Outdoor Recreation, Sports Tournaments, Agritourism, Weekend Getaways for Families and Food Trails to promote small businesses.
- Digital ads will run through Datafy, Google or Social Media
- Print ads can be in Midwest Living Magazine, AAA Living, Illinois Travel Guide or other
- print magazines that make sense for attracting overnight visitors.



# Development & Community Services Department

Questions?



STATE OF ILLINOIS )

SS.

COUNTY OF KANE )

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-23-1470**

**AGRICULTURE RECOVERY AND SUSTAINABILITY FUND PROPOSAL  
(MATT TANSLEY, PLANNER) (ATTACHED)**

# Kane County Agriculture Recovery and Sustainability Fund

## The Conservation Fund Proposal: Farm Business Resiliency Project

Matt Tansley, Planner  
Kane County Agriculture Committee  
October 19, 2023



# Agriculture Recovery and Sustainability Fund Projects (ARPA-Funded / Active & Proposed)

---

## Active Project

- Livestock Market Assessment (New Venture Advisors)
- Approved Allocation: \$66,000

## New / Proposed Project

- **Kane Co. Farm Business Resiliency Project (The Conservation Fund)**
- **Proposed Allocation: \$2,077,700**



# Project Overview

## Farm Business Resiliency Project – The Conservation Fund

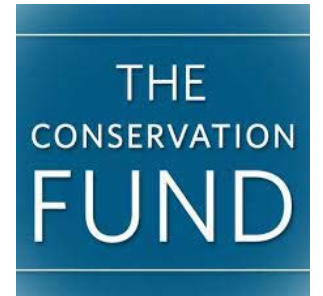
---

### **Project Goal:**

Build local food system resilience through targeted assistance for Kane County Farmers in response to pandemic-related economic volatility and supply chain disruptions.

### **Context:**

While the demand for fresh, local foods remains high, farm businesses continue to struggle with persistent challenges including access to land, capital, and technical assistance. COVID-19 compounded existing market vulnerabilities for farmers, especially those operating in peri-urban areas



# Program Functions

---



## Competitive Grants Program

A competitive grants program for Kane County based producers to cover farm infrastructure improvements / upgrades, equipment, and other costs related to farm business viability



## Working Farms Fund Expansion

Directed financial assistance to expand Working Farms Fund program services for Kane County Farmers including:

- Program operations (staff time)
- Real estate due diligence costs
- On-farm infrastructure (for farmers enrolled in the WFF program)

Cost Proposal	
Competitive Grants Program	\$1,377,300
Working Farms Fund Expansion	\$700,400
Total	\$2,077,700

# The Working Farms Fund

---

## How it Works

1

The Conservation Fund acquires farmland at risk of development in metro areas (active projects in Chicago and Atlanta metro areas)

2

The purchased land is matched with next generation farmers who enter a lease-to-own arrangement 3 to 5 years

3

Farmer has option to purchase the land at reduced cost resulting from the application of a permanent agriculture conservation easement

# The Working Farms Fund's Impact

## FARMS FUND IMPACTS TO DATE:

10  
FARMS

745  
ACRES

40  
FARMERS

\$7M  
IN LAND VALUE  
SECURED

\$190K  
INVESTED DIRECTLY IN  
ON-FARM INFRASTRUCTURE

27% OF FARMER OWNERS  
ARE WOMEN

68% OF FARMER OWNERS  
ARE BIPOC



# Program Outcomes

---

- At least **50 Kane County farmers** will be engaged through the project with offers of assistance for project development and planning, and creation and submission of grant proposals.
- **\$1,000,000 in financial assistance** will be awarded to farmers eligible applicants for eligible projects that will improve farm production capabilities and resiliency.
- At least **150 acres of Kane County farmland** is made available for Kane County farmers to expand food production through the Working Farms Fund.
- An additional **\$2M is leveraged** through the Working Farms Fund program to benefit farmers in Kane County.

# About the Conservation Fund

---

A national organization committed to conserving natural areas and working lands. The Conservation Fund's programs are designed to protect natural resources while achieving economic outcomes that benefit communities.

## Focus Areas

- Forests
- **Farms and Ranchlands**
- Wetlands & Watersheds
- Cultural Conservation
- Recreation Areas
- Urban Parks Wildlife Protection



# Local Program Management

---



## Emy Brawley

Great Lakes Regional Director,  
Conservation Acquisition

Emy works across the Midwest, including Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and Wisconsin, to offer the full array of the Fund's programs and services to its conservation partners.



Cities



Conservation  
Acquisition



Working Farms Fund

STATE OF ILLINOIS )

SS.

COUNTY OF KANE )

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-23-1471**

## WATER RESOURCES UPDATES (JODIE WOLLNIK, DIRECTOR)



STATE OF ILLINOIS )

SS.

COUNTY OF KANE )

**PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION NO. TMP-23-1472**

## AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION EASEMENTS (JANICE HILL, EXECUTIVE PLANNER)





## RESOLUTION / ORDINANCE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY ADDENDUM

### **Title**

APPROVING SIX APPLICANTS FOR PROTECTION THROUGH THE KANE COUNTY FARMLAND PROTECTION PROGRAM

### **Committee Flow:**

Agriculture Committee, Executive Committee, County Board

### **Contact:**

Janice Hill, Executive Planner  
630-232-3483

### **Budget Information:**

Was this item budgeted? N/A	Appropriation Amount: \$ N/A
If not budgeted, explain funding source: N/A	

### **Summary:**

This resolution authorizes the County Board to approve six candidate farms for protection with conservation easements through the Kane County Farmland Protection Program.