



Kane County

KC Agriculture Committee

Meeting Minutes

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

JUBY, Roth, Allan, Lenert, Penesis, Sanchez, Williams and ex-officio Pierog (County Chair)

Thursday, November 20, 2025 **10:30 AM** **County Board Room**

1. Call To Order

Chairman Juby called today's meeting to order at 10:30 AM.

2. Roll Call

PRESENT	Board Member Leslie Juby Board Member Bill Roth Board Member Deborah Allan Board Member Bill Lenert Board Member Ted Penesis Board Member Jarett Sanchez
ABSENT	Board Member Rick Williams Ex-Officio County Board Chair Corinne M. Pierog

Also present: Co. Bd. members Bates*, Lewis, Molina*, Strathmann*; KCFB Mgr. Arnold; KDSWCD Admin. Gerdts; Northern Illinois Food Bank Mgr. Desio; Dev. Planner Tansley & staff Toth and Castro; Dev. Dir. VanKerkhoff and staff Tansley and Castro; Spec. ASA & Local Historian Shepro; ITD staff Kash; and members of the press and public including Former County Board Member Mike Kenyon.

3. Remote Attendance Requests

There were no remote attendance requests for today's meeting.

4. Approval of Minutes: October 23, 2025

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
MOVER:	Bill Lenert

5. Public Comment

None.

6. Partners

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

Kane County Farm Bureau (KCFB) Mgr. Arnold thanked Madam Chair Pierog for joining Kane County Farm Bureau President, Dale Pitstick, in Hampshire for a firsthand look at Kane County's corn harvesting process on Wednesday, October 29. While riding along in a combine as the Pitsticks worked the field, Chairman Pierog witnessed how modern technology and generations of farming expertise come together to feed both the community and the economy. He announced that the American Farm Bureau Federation sent out their annual cost of a Thanksgiving meal survey. The survey reported that a classic Thanksgiving dinner for ten people costs \$54.10, which is a five percent decrease from 2024, and the lowest price since 2021. On Saturday, December 13, young farmers and KCFB Foundation members will team up again for The Community Santa Project to provide toys to children and families. The event will take place in the parking lot from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., serving Fay's BBQ. All Giving Tree gifts need to be turned in to KCFB by the end of day. There will also be a Lending Library of free Christmas themed children's books available at that KCFB lobby during business hours. Arnold stated that in two weeks, three KCFB delegates and three KCFB alternates will head to Chicago for the annual meeting to vote on farm program policy resolutions with the Illinois Farm Bureau (IFB). He announced that there are two open positions on his staff. The available positions include a member engagement director, and a development agriculture and literacy coordinator. The KCFB recently submitted an application for electric vehicle charging stations in rural Kane County to the IFB for a rural development grant. In February, the KCFB will be conducting its twenty-fifth shopping spree for local food pantries at the Batavia Jewel Osco. Chairman Juby will be recommended to participate again, and an open spot for a second participant will be available to anyone interested in competing. The Annual Touch-a-Tractor Program will run from April 10-12, 2026. He highlighted that the DrawDown Fundraiser on Sunday, November 16 at the Elburn Lions Park had a successful turnout. There will be another DrawDown event in early September 2026. The KCFB acquired a truck for the Annual Vintage Truck Raffle. The truck will be given away on September 19, 2026 at the Big Rock Plowing Match. Lastly, Arnold stated that the KCFB is looking forward to working with the University of Illinois Extension to discuss long-term agricultural goals and to potentially possess the property of the Research Farm at Route 38 and Peck Road. Arnold believes that by establishing this site, it will allow farmers and researchers to conduct all experiments and demonstration projects at one location. Discussion ensued.

B. Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District Updates (Kat Gerdts, Administrative Coordinator)

Kane-DuPage Soil and Water Conservation District (KDSWCD) Admin. Gerdts highlighted that the Farm Foundation's Innovation and Education Campus in Libertyville is a great site for education, research, and conducting demonstrations. Gerdts noted that there were three inquiries referred to the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) portal for the Climate Pollution Reduction, no till/strip till grant (CPRG). An update on the grant will be presented at the next meeting. The Kane County Farm Weatherization Rebate is in progress. On January 22, 2026, the KDSWCD will be collaborating with the Kane County Sustainability Team to celebrate farms in Kane County. The KDSWCD will host a BBQ dinner at Emerald Acres in Elburn, and will include a keynote farmer speaker, Jim Stutes, who will speak about rural myths, and Conservation Practices and why they can have a positive return on investment (ROI). Registration for this event opens the first week of December. Lastly, Gerdts stated that there will be an election on February 10, 2026 for the KDSWCD Board of Directors. There are three seats open for seeking candidates. Gerdts addressed questions and comments from the Committee. Discussion ensued.

C. Northern Illinois Food Bank Updates

Northern Illinois Food Bank Mgr., Rob Desio, thanked Madam Chair Pierog and everyone who attended the Kane County Leaders Convene Roundtable on Food Access and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Benefits on November 7 to address growing concerns over reductions to the SNAP and their impact on local families, seniors, and veterans. He stated that the event brought together a coalition of federal, state, and community leaders, including Congressman Bill Foster, and Congresswoman Lauren Underwood. There was positive feedback and responses from donors for the Community Response Fund. A total of 630K neighbors were served in October, and through the first two weeks of November the number of neighbors served had a 26 percent increase from October. Lastly, Desio announced that there is now a food finder map displayed on the Northern Illinois Food Bank website where people have access to local markets. Further discussion took place.

7. Presentations/Announcements**A. Agriculture Committee 2026 Goals Discussion**

Dev. Planner Tansley reviewed the drafted Committee Goals for 2026. He stated that the Planning Division staff met with Committee leadership to discuss potential goals for the Kane County Agriculture Committee for 2026. He noted that the goals are intended to guide the Committee's actions throughout the year, be responsive to community needs, and stay consistent with county policies and priorities on agriculture and food access. The following five goals include Farmland Protection, Growing for Kane, Funding Advocacy, Staff Oversight, and Raising Awareness of Agriculture. (Committee Member Allan arrived at 11:25 a.m.) After much discussion, the Committee agreed to conduct a final review of the 2026 Committee Goals at next month's meeting.

B. Amending Section 2-48 of the Kane County Code (Standing Committees) to Revise Language Related to the Agriculture Committee

After much discussion, Chairman Juby recommended the Committee do a second reading of the ordinance at next month's meeting. The ordinance was tabled. No votes were taken.

RESULT:	TABLED
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8. New Business

None.

9. Reports Placed On File

RESULT:	APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT
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MOVER:	Bill Roth
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10. Executive Session (if needed)

None.

11. Adjournment

RESULT:	APPROVED BY VOICE VOTE
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MOVER:	Bill Roth
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SECONDER:	Jarett Sanchez
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This meeting was adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

Rachel Santora
Recording Secretary