KENDALL COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Thursday, April 11, 2013 at 4:00 PM
COUNTY OFFICE BUILDING
County Board Room 209

AGENDA

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. KC Soil & Water Conservation District Presentation – Megan Andrews and Jenny Wold

4. Items of Business
   A. Resolution regarding County Website Transparency
   B. Recommendation to Board for Senior Tax Levy Grant Awards

5. Old Business

6. Review Board Action Items

7. Executive Session for the purpose of review of all committee Executive Session minutes at least semi-annually by the County Board for continued confidentiality in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Executive session minutes and corresponding tapes shall be kept secure in the County Clerk’s Office. Executive session matters are to be kept confidential until released.

8. Public Comment

9. Adjournment

The next meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. A presentation from Speer Financial regarding Bond Finance is scheduled for the May meeting
Call to Order
The Committee of the Whole met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by Chairman John Shaw, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum
Members Present: Amy Cesich, Lynn Cullick, Elizabeth Flowers (10:35 a.m.), Judy Gilmour, Scott Gryder, Dan Koukol, Matt Prochaska, John Purcell, John Shaw and Jeff Wehrli

Others Present: David Berault, Don Clayton, Jeff Wilkins and Angela Zubko

Items of Business

Evaluation of County Board Committees - John Shaw asked the new Board members to provide their view of the current committee meetings and the schedule.

Lynn Cullick expressed her concern regarding the number of committee meetings, the meeting times, and convenience of meetings in mid-day. She said she would like to see a stream-lining of meetings to be more convenient for board members, elected officials and department heads, and citizens. She said there is room to schedule less meetings, to schedule meetings back to back, or to schedule meetings earlier or later in the day.

Amy Cesich said that in the interest of the citizens, she feels it would be better to consolidate the number of meetings, and to change meeting times to be more accommodating for the public to attend. She stated that she felt that more issues are brought to agenda and discussed at the Board meeting that convenes during the day. She also said that staff should be compensated for attendance at evening meetings. Ms. Cesich said that the meeting time issue is separate from the combining and streamlining meeting issue.

Scott Gryder said he's had citizen's voice concern about their inability to attend meetings that are scheduled during the day. He felt if the process of meeting could be streamlined, it would be more cost effective for Kendall County citizens. Mr. Gryder said that DeKalb County only holds evening meetings. Mr. Gryder asked if there was a way to eliminate an issue being presented at numerous committees before coming to the Board.

Judy Gilmour said that whatever decisions are made by the board regarding meeting times needs to be done for what's best for the county, the staff and the citizens. Ms. Gilmour said that the two committees she chairs are important to the county and she believes they need to continue meeting on a regular basis. Ms. Gilmour said that the Admin HR Committee is currently working on a County-wide policy regarding transparency which would include meeting recording.
Matthew Prochaska said he is a proponent of moving meetings to the late afternoon or evenning to be more accommodating for citizens to attend. Mr. Prochaska said that other counties of similar size have fewer meetings. He also said that he feels there should be a second Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled each month. Mr. Prochaska distributed his proposed suggestions for meeting restructuring. He suggested merging the Judiciary Legislative Committee meetings and the Public Safety Center meetings, or to schedule each committee to meet every other month instead of monthly.

Chairman Shaw said he felt it would be more beneficial for the Judiciary Legislative Committee to meet every 60 days instead of on a monthly basis.

David Berault stated that the State’s Attorney’s office should be involved in all meetings where further discussion of these topics is involved.

John Purcell said that nothing he’s heard in discussions thus far have prompted him to believe that the committee structure needs to be revamped. He felt to get the most benefit for everyone involved: elected officials, staff, citizens, and board members, that there is need to hold some committee meetings during the day. He said that input and information provided by elected officials and department heads is invaluable as decisions are made by the board. Mr. Purcell said that committees don’t have to meet every month if there are no agenda items, and that meetings can be cancelled by a chair at any time. Purcell suggested that each chair discuss meeting times with their respective committee members to determine the best meeting times and days for that committee to meet.

Jeff Wehrli stated that the most important step as far as accountability to citizens is to begin audio and video recordings, and that the committee chair should recognize each speaker before they speak to aid in the identification of such for anyone listening to meetings. He stressed the importance of department and committee reports at board meetings to assist Board members in understanding the day-to-day workings of the county. Mr. Wehrli said that committees he chairs do not meet if there are no business items to discuss, but that reports are still sent to all committee members for review. Wehrli said the strengths of our committees are based upon the agenda items that are discussed, and the involvement of the committee chairs. Mr. Wehrli suggested having several meetings in one day to save the county money. Judy Gilmore agreed that this would be a good place to begin by combining different meetings into the same day to save time and money.

Dan Koukol provided some history of his last committee involvement and the significance of each committee as they make decisions that affect the county citizens. He said that the three committees he is currently chairing meet either first thing in the morning or later in the afternoon to be more accommodating to committee members, the public, elected officials and staff. Mr. Koukol gave history of the past Admin GIS/Technology/Revenue Committee meeting, and said that many projects were discussed and decisions made at that committee that did not need to be presented at the Board level. Koukol felt there is need to reinstate the Admin/GIS/Revenue committee. Mr. Koukol did not recommend combing the Judiciary Legislative and Public Safety Committee meetings, but would favor those committees meeting every other month as needed.
John Shaw asked Matt Prochaska to brief the board on his example of a proposed meeting schedule. Mr. Shaw said that any proposal for committee schedule change or restructuring must first be discussed at the Admin HR committee before presentation to the COW for discussion.

Elizabeth Flowers addressed the issue of staff attendance at evening meetings. She said that the Board has continually asked county offices to cut their annual budgets, and many are working short-staffed and haven’t filled vacant positions. To ask staff to attend evening meetings in addition to their regular work day is not feasible, and would add an additional strain on the budget because of the compensation for their attendance at evening meetings. Ms. Flowers said that she favors recording of meetings, and that recording wouldn’t put any additional strain on the County budget. Ms. Flowers said that it is necessary for some elected officials and department heads to attend several committee meetings to provide information and to participate in various meetings regarding specific projects or issues that might affect that specific committee, or area in the county.

The COW committee members agreed that the meeting schedule issue and Board Rules of Order issue should go to the Administration Human Resources committee for review and discussion, and that any recommendations should then come from that committee to the COW committee for review before going to the Board as an action item.

**Old Business** – Jeff Wehrli asked Jeff Wilkins if all meetings were taped, if email addresses could be set up for each committee so that the public could direct any questions to each respective committee. Wilkins said that email distribution lists could be set up for each committee if desired.

Amy Cesich said that the addition of audio recording would assist in streamlining the committee process and assist in the transparency of the Board to the county citizens.

Angela Zubko gave a history of the Stormwater Planning Committee that needs to be reformed with three Board members from District 1 and two Board members from District 2, and an alternate from each District. Members are selected from each District based on the District population. She said that this committee needs to meet at the end of March 2013, and then as needed regarding variances from the base document. Each municipality was asked to participate on this committee.

**Executive Session** - None

**Public Comment** - None

**Adjournment**
Lynn Cullick moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion was seconded by Scott Gryder. There being no objection, the Committee of the Whole, at 12:05 a.m. adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Valarie A. McClain
Recording Secretary
Kendall County, Illinois
Committee of the Whole

Friday, February 22, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.
County Office Building, Board Room 209-210

SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
Corrected

Call to Order
The Committee of the Whole met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by Chairman John Shaw, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call and Determination of a Quorum
Members Present:  Amy Cesich, Lynn Cullick, Elizabeth Flowers (10:35 a.m.), Judy Gilmour, Scott Gryder, Dan Koukol, Matt Prochaska, John Purcell, John Shaw and Jeff Wehrli

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Call to Order
The Committee of the Whole met at 4:00pm and was called to order by Vicc Chairman Judy Gilmour, who led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call
Members Present: Lynn Cullick, Elizabeth Flowers (4:05 p.m.), Judy Gilmour, Scott Gryder, Dan Koukol, Matt Prochaska, John Purcell (4:02 p.m.) and Jeff Wehrli

Committee Members Absent: Amy Cesich and John Shaw

Others Present: David Berault, Don Clayton, Scott Koster, Jim Smiley, Eric Weis, Jeff Wilkins and Angela Zubko

Other Items of Business

Historic Preservation Commission Presentation: Ken Donart presented background information, HPC purpose and future goals for the HPC.

Planning, Building & Zoning: Angela Zubko reviewed three different amendment proposals and provided information and answered questions regarding petitions, plats and ordinances.

A. Petition 13-01 Granting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow a Kendall County Government Agency and other law enforcement shooting range

B. Petition 13-03 Granting an amendment to the Subdivision Control Ordinance to have a Zoning Process for Other Plats (Vacation, Dedication, etc.)

C. Petition 13-04 Granting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to add a definition for a micro/craft distillery and allow Micro/Craft Distilleries as a special use in the A-1 Agricultural and B-3 Business District and as a permitted use in the M-1 and M-2 Manufacturing Districts

GIS/Mapping:
A. GIS 2013 Aerial Flight Photography Services: Don Clayton informed the committee that Cook County will not be able to complete a 2013 Aerial Flight. Clayton contacted Sidwell Company regarding a flight for Kendall County, and was quoted a cost of $59,995, which would save over $20,000 from what Cook County would have charged for the same information. Clayton said the RFP will close on February 22, 2013.

B. Purchase of additional license for ESRI ARC GIS Software Program: Don Clayton reported that the Environmental Health Department has asked to use the ESRI ARC GIS Software for updating their ongoing Well and Septic Project. Clayton said that GIS would need to purchase an additional “floating” license for other department usage at a cost of $6300 to comply with the request.
Old Business - None

Review Board Items
- Approval of Coroner's Office New Vehicle Purchase in the amount of approximately $32,000
- Authorization for Sheriff Randall to sign the HIDTA grant award in the amount $842,387
- Authorization to approve additional funds in the amount of $8,477.20 to pay for the Emergency Notification System to replace the reverse 911 system formerly used by KenCom
- Approval of GIS purchase of one additional license for the ESRI ARC GIS Software Program in the amount of approximately $6300
- Petition 13-01 Granting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to allow a Kendall County Government Agency and other law enforcement shooting range
- Petition 13-03 Granting an amendment to the Subdivision Control Ordinance to have a Zoning Process for Other Plats (Vacation, Dedication, etc.)
- Petition 13-04 Granting an amendment to the Zoning Ordinance to add a definition for a micro/craft distillery and allow Micro/Craft Distilleries as a special use in the A-1 Agricultural and B-3 Business District and as a permitted use in the M-1 and M-2 Manufacturing Districts

Executive Session – A motion to enter into executive session by Matt Prochaska, second by Jeff Wehrli for the purpose of litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular public body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the public body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting. (ILCS 120/2/11).

The Committee of the Whole entered into Executive Session at 4:54 p.m. The Committee of the Whole returned to regular session at 5:23 p.m.

Public Comment
None

Adjournment
Ms. Flowers moved to adjourn the Committee of the Whole meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Cullick. There being no objection, the Committee of the Whole, at 5:32 p.m. adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Valarie A. McClain
Recording Secretary
County of Kendall

RESOLUTION 2013-______

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE
KENDALL COUNTY WEBSITE TRANSPARENCY POLICY

WHEREAS, the Kendall County Board recognizes the importance and the need for an open and transparent government to serve its residents; and

WHEREAS, the Kendall County Board is committed to transparency in the conduct of the public's business; and

WHEREAS, the Kendall County Board has developed standards for the Kendall County website to provide the public with information in an accountable and transparent manner; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF KENDALL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, as follows:

The Kendall County Website Transparency Policy, attached hereto and made a part of as Exhibit "A", is hereby adopted by the County Board of Kendall County.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNTY BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF KENDALL COUNTY THIS _____ DAY OF ____________________, 2013.

Attest:

John Shaw
County Board Chairman

Debbie Gillette
County Clerk
County of Kendall
County Board Policy

Policy Subject: County Website Transparency
Date Adopted: April 16, 2013
Revised: N/A
Updated: N/A

I. Purpose
This policy provides guidance as to how the County Board presents public information in a transparent and accountable manner, with emphasis on openness, ethics, and fiscal responsibility. This policy is a minimum standard and should not inhibit other public information presented on the County’s website by Kendall County departments, Kendall County elected officials, Kendall County Board of Health, and Kendall County Forest Preserve District.

II. Effective Date
The provisions of this Policy shall be applicable on or after April 16, 2013.

III. Procedures/Guidelines
As part of the commitment of the County Board to open, transparent and honest government, the County website at www.co.kendall.il.us shall include the following information and documents accessed by a link named “Transparency” on the website homepage.

1. Elected & Administrative Officials
The County website shall include contact information, including name, department or office, job title, mailing address, facsimile number, telephone number, and an electronic contact method for all elected County Board members, elected officials, appointed administrators, directors and department heads for all County operations.

2. Meeting Information
The County website shall comply with the Illinois Open Meetings Act. The County website shall include the annual meeting schedule and monthly calendar for all meetings of the County Board and its advisory committees. The County website shall also identify the current County Board committee assignments. The monthly calendar will be available for viewing in electronic format and printable in pdf format. The updated electronic monthly calendar shall present agendas for all meetings of the County Board’s advisory committees. The website shall also include agendas, packets, minutes and audio recordings of all open sessions of County Board meetings. Meeting dates may be changed, and meetings may be canceled, subject to the requirements of
the Open Meetings Act. The County shall use its best efforts to promptly update the County's website to notify the public of any canceled or rescheduled meetings.

The County Board meeting agendas, packets and minutes shall remain available on the County's website for a minimum of four years after completion of the County Board meeting. Audio recordings of open sessions of County Board meetings shall remain on the County's website for at least one calendar year after completion of the County Board meeting. The County Clerk shall remove all audio recordings for the prior calendar year. Subsequently, the County Clerk shall apply to the Illinois Records Commission for disposal of all audio recordings of open sessions that have been removed from the County's website.

3. Public Records
The County website shall include the name, department or office, job title, mailing address, telephone number, and an electronic contact method for all County Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Officers, along with the mailing address, facsimile number, and electronic submission method for FOIA requests.

4. Budgets
The County website shall include the detailed budget for the current fiscal year, along with the detailed budgets for a minimum of four prior fiscal years.

5. Financial Audits
The County website shall include the County's Annual Audited Financial Reports for a minimum of four years after the County's auditor presents the Audited Financial Report to the County Board.

6. Expenditures
The County website shall include the County's bi-monthly claims reports starting April 16, 2013 showing County expenditures approved by the County Board to all individuals and third-party vendors. The claims reports should include the name of the payee, a brief description of expenditure, the amount of expenditure, and the line item account number. Bi-monthly claims will remain on the County's website for a minimum of four years after the County Board has approved the claims.

7. Salary & Benefits
Starting with Fiscal Year 2013, the County website shall display total compensation for each County budgeted position per fiscal year in accordance with Public Act 97-0609. Each County budgeted position will be displayed by position and department or office. County paid benefits shall be shown in separate categories, including, total compensation, budgeted salary, clothing allowance, health and dental insurance, life insurance, pension, FICA, and Medicare. In addition, annual vacation days, annual personal and sick days, and annual number of holidays will be shown for each County budgeted position. This information shall be updated within six (6) business days after the beginning of each fiscal year and shall remain available on the County's website for
a minimum of three years after the information has been posted on the County's website.

8. Contracts
The County website shall include a list of all vendor contracts over $30,000 approved by the County Board starting April 16, 2013. The vendor's name, the awarding office or agency, the dollar value of the contract, and a brief description of the goods or services provided shall be listed on the County website. The list of vendor contracts shall remain available on the County's website for three years after the contracts have been executed by the parties.

The County website shall also display the current union contracts for all bargaining units. The union contract will remain posted on the website until a new union contract is approved and ratified by the bargaining unit, the Kendall County Board and the respective elected official.

9. Lobbying
The County Board does not currently have a contract with a certified lobbyist. The County Board, Elected Officials and multiple departments have memberships with various associations. Each January, the County website shall be updated to include all association memberships provided by the Kendall County Board, Kendall County elected officials and Kendall County departments.

10. Taxes and Fees
Each January, the County website shall be updated to include the current fee schedule submitted by Kendall County elected officials and Kendall County departments, the prior year's actual property tax rate, the following year's estimated property tax rate, and Kendall County sales tax rates for public safety and transportation. This information will be listed on the County website in a user-friendly format.
Introductions

- **Staff**
  - Megan Andrews, Resource Conservationist
  - Jenny Wold, Education Coordinator
  - Leah Tilton, Administrative Coordinator

- **Board of Directors**
  - Matthew Kellogg, Chair
  - Butch Konicek, Vice-Chair
  - Scott Brummel, Secretary/Treasurer
  - Deanna Bazan, Director
KCSWCD: Background

- A governmental body created by state law for the purpose of promoting the protection and conservation of the county's and state's soil, water and related natural resources.
  - "Independent unit of local government"
  - Formation was in part a response to the dust bowl of the 1930s.
  - Illinois is home to 97 Soil and Water Conservation Districts which were commissioned under the "Soil and Water Conservation Act" (70 ILCS 405) of 1937.
  - Kendall County SWCD formed on June 2, 1947.
  - Co-located with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) at the USDA Service Center.

KCSWCD: A Local Resource

- Provide resources, technical assistance & educational opportunities on agriculture, soil, water and related natural resources.
  - Soil & Water Conservation
  - Education Program
  - Community Assistance
  - Resources
Soil & Water Conservation

- Provide & Assist in delivering programs that prevent erosion from urban development and of the tillable soil that can threaten our agricultural economy and sustainability of our surface water supplies.
  - **Partners for Conservation Program** – technical & financial assistance to landowners to address erosion issues.
  - **Natural Resource Information (NRI) Reports** – provide natural resource information to officials of the local governing body and other decision makers.
  - **Soil Erosion & Sediment Control** – assistance provided to agencies (Illinois EPA), local governments and the construction community.

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Soil & Water Conservation

- **Partners for Conservation: Best Management Practices**
  1. Grassed Waterway
  2. Modular Concrete Block Chute
  3. Rain Garden
  4. Stone Toe Protection
  5. Concrete Block Chute
Education Program

- Community Presentations & Demonstrations
  - Natural Resources — Soil, Water, Native plants, Rain Gardens, Pond Management, etc.

Education Program

- Programming for students on agriculture and natural resources
  - Classroom Presentations
  - Natural Resources Tour
  - Teacher Workshops & Inservice
  - Student Contests
  - Envirothon Competition
  - Education Resources
  - Kendall County Fair
Education Program

1. Classroom Presentation
2. Teacher In-service
3. Natural Resources Tour
4. Poster Contest
5. Kendall County Fair

Community Assistance & Resources

- Assistance provided to:
  - Local developers
  - Elected officials
  - Municipal & County Government
  - State & Federal Natural Resource Agencies
  - Local organizations & Community Groups
  - Watershed Groups
  - Residents

- Resources:
  - Conservation Sales
    - Fish, trees, rain barrels, composters, soil & water test kits
  - Used Oil Collection
  - Maps
  - Informational brochures & materials
    - Local Watershed Plans, program information, pond management, soil information, rain gardens, etc.
### Funding

- **State Operational Allocation**
  - Dependent upon State of Illinois for operational and program funding received through the Illinois Department of Agriculture (IDOA) Partners for Conservation Program (PFC).
  - Overall, 65% decrease in operation funds since FY08, IDOA has mitigated a portion of the loss by supplementing operational funds (and employee insurance costs) with program funds.
  - Statewide effort to secure dedicated funding sources for SWCDs legislatively.
  - FY13 State Operational Outlook: $44,000

- **County Board Allocation**
  - Provided contribution to Education Program since early 1990s.
  - With funding reduction, approached for assistance with operations, as needed, beginning in FY10.
  - FY13 Contribution for Education ($20,000) & Operations ($12,000) = $32,000
  - KCSWCD continues to utilize reserves

### FY Accomplishment Highlights

- **11,312 students** learned about conservation and agriculture through **457 classroom presentations**, **special events**, and a **4-day outdoor natural resources tour**.

- **450 Educators** learned about agriculture, natural resources, and how to incorporate these topics into their classroom through **classroom presentations**, **teacher workshops/inservices**, a **summer graduate course** and **mailings**.

- Administered and assisted in implementing over **½ of a million dollars ($598,500)** this past fiscal year within Kendall County alone through local, state & federal programs. That’s approximately **$33,000 per mile square**.

- Provided over **$30,050** of **cost-share assistance** to local landowners through the SWCD Partners for Conservation Program for implementation of agricultural best management practices.

- Collected **1,800 gallons** of used oil to be recycled and refined for future use.
## Agriculture and Natural Resource Literacy Program
### 2011-2012 School Year

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<th>Month</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Class Total</th>
<th>Student Total</th>
<th>Teacher Total</th>
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<td>4th-5th</td>
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<td>29</td>
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<td>3rd</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>Watershed Address</td>
<td>5th</td>
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<td>Nutrition Scramble</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>1104</td>
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<td>12</td>
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<td>Soybeans</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<td>Nutrition Scramble</td>
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### Highlights
- Farmers from around the county were able to participate in several of the 3rd Agriculture in the Classroom lessons, Agriculture Explorations. Students loved being able to interact with the farmers, ask questions, and explore crops, animals, and machinery. In addition to assisting with the in-classroom presentations, several farmers also hosted learning stations during a mini Ag Expo held for the Plano 2nd grade students.
Bobbi Calmer, 1st Grade teachers at Lisbon, was selected as a State Runner-up for Illinois Ag in the Classroom Teacher of the Year.

Lisbon Grade School was selected through the Illinois Soybean Association to host a national school program entitled “Food Play.” It took place in April.

Added Cross Lutheran to list of schools receiving Ag in the Classroom programming.

Created Facebook page to better communicate with teachers about program resources, opportunities, and updates.

750 students from 8 schools participated in the 5th Annual Natural Resource Tour held at Hoover Forest Preserve.

The program conducted 457 in-classroom presentations in approximately 25 schools throughout the county.

Lending Library Usage
This past year, all four school districts utilized the lending library maintained by this program. A variety of materials were borrowed including Ag Mags, Curriculum kits, books, videos, DVDs, and games. The latest addition to the lending library has been themed book bundles. These bundles have been very popular with the teachers.

Supporting Organizations/Funding
Kendall County Board
National Farm Bureau, White-Reinhardt Grant
NE Groundwater Committee
Kendall County Pork Producers
Kendall County Beef Producers
Kendall County Corn Growers
Kendall County Farm Bureau Young Leaders
Kendall County Farm Bureau Foundation
Severson Trucking
Land O’Lakes

Teacher Workshops/In-services
Health and Nutrition Presentation, North Central
This workshop is intended to introduce future Health and Physical Education teachers to the Ag in the Classroom program and the materials and curriculum available through it that are applicable in the areas of health and nutrition. This presentation was conducted in the Fall and Spring. Attendance: 60

Teacher Ambassador Program
This group of teachers continued to meet during the 2011-2012 school year. There was a meeting held in October and in March. At this meeting, the ambassador group learned new resources and lessons available through Ag in the Classroom. They were also given new books and materials to use in their classrooms. Attendance: 20
Special Events & Contests
Family Adventure Day @ Hoover
Hosted booth at event hosted by Outdoor Ed. Center
Lyon’s Farm Activity Days with Oswego 3rd Graders
Grundy Co. Natural Resource Tour
Harvest on the Farm Poster Contest
Soil to Spoon, SWCD Poster Contest
Ag Week Book Donation, Farm Animals
Teacher of the Year, Laura McCoy, Oswego Hands-on Science
LUC III Envirothon (Newark had two teams)
Extension Environmental Impact Day @ Hoover Forest Preserve
Taught water ecology lesson to Yorkville 7th grade students
Natural Resource Tour (750 4th-5th grade students attended from 8 schools)
Planned & coordinate this 4 day event
Kendall County Fair (Approximately 500 county residents expected to be impacted)

Students examined worms and learned about composting while at one of the stations at the Natural Resource Tour held in May.
Project Spotlights:

Modular Concrete Block Structure

Recently, the Kendall County SWCD and USDA-NRCS partnered together to provide cost-share and technical assistance to a local landowner with an erosion concern. Water draining from cropland and pasture upstream was undermining a livestock stream crossing. In order to stabilize the crossing and provide a stable outlet for the water, a grade stabilization structure was needed. The type of structure, a modular concrete block chute, was determined to be the best fit to address the onsite resource concerns. This structure is the first of this type to be installed in Kendall County.

Streambank Stabilization: Stone Toe Protection & Rock Riffle

Streambank erosion is a natural process that occurs in all streams as water wears away the soil and rock that form their banks. As the banks are worn away, streams naturally and slowly establish a meandering course. Streambank erosion in Illinois has, however, been accelerated by land altering activities. As such, streambank erosion has become a serious threat to the land, water, plant and animal resources along many streams in our state.

When left unchecked, streambank erosion can be responsible for the loss or damage to valuable farmland, wildlife habitat, buildings, roads, bridges and other public or private structures and property. This type of erosion is a major source of sediments deposited in Illinois lakes, streams and backwater areas. Sediment reduces stream channel capacity, which may increase flooding and streambank erosion, or reduce the depth and holding capacity of lakes. Sediment deposited in creeks, streams and rivers degrades water quality and can destroy fish and wildlife habitat.

The Kendall County SWCD provides cost-share, technical assistance and education information to landowners with severely eroding streambank sites where effective low-cost streambank stabilization techniques can be established.
Two methods, shown below, to stabilize or treat eroding streambanks through our cost-share program are stone toe protection and rock riffles. These two practices were recently installed in Kendall County along a reach of a creek that was downcutting and experiencing streambank erosion.

Rain Garden

Kendall County Staff installed a rain garden at our office. A rain garden is a shallow depression, planted with native plants, on your property that absorbs rain water (runoff) from impervious surfaces, mainly from the roof of a building. As land begins to develop, there is a dramatic increase in impervious surfaces which increases the amount of stormwater runoff. A rain garden is a helpful stewardship tool that can significantly reduce the amount of runoff. Such gardens provide an increased functional benefit compared to conventional lawns.

Specifically, rain gardens can reduce flooding, absorb pollutants, recharge aquifers and sustain wildlife by providing habitat. Since these gardens are planted with native vegetation, the long, extensive root structure allows water to infiltrate into the ground. By allowing for greater infiltration, the speed of runoff, which can cause erosion, is reduced. Additionally, rain gardens naturally filter pollutants from runoff. As a result, rain gardens improve water quality as well as address water quantity concerns.
Our 65th Annual Meeting Award Presentations

The 2012 Conservation Producer Spotlight Award was presented to Rod Schobert in recognition of his dedication to conservation through land stewardship. The district would like to acknowledge his initiative in assessing conservation needs and implementing an agricultural best management practice to address a resource concern on his land. Rod reworked a grassed waterway successfully stopping further gully erosion in his field. His timely practice application, attention to detail during construction and technical skillset as a contractor effectively kept soil where it is on-site, making a positive impact on our water quality. We appreciate and respect his efforts. Congratulations!

Congratulations to Sara Studer, 3rd grade teacher at Prairie Point Elementary, for being named the year’s Teacher of the Year by the Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District. This award is given annually to recognize educators who work to promote agricultural literacy in their classrooms or support agricultural literacy efforts in other classrooms. Sara has done many things to promote agriculture literacy in her classroom. She has borrowed kits & books, scheduled presentations, developed her own units/activities, and has attended workshops/trainings through the education program.

The 2012 Conservation Partner Award is presented to Nancy Martin in recognition of her dedication to soil and water conservation in Kendall County. Her awareness of the importance of our natural resources is a true asset to the Kendall County community. Her commitment to our district by voluntarily serving as a liaison of the Kendall County Board allowed for valuable communication and strengthened a key partnership between our two entities. Her support of our district has been truly invaluable. We truly appreciate our conservation partnership with Nancy. Congratulations!
Cost Share Money Available

Are you experiencing erosion on your cropland? Do you have an unused water well that needs to be sealed? We can help...

The Partners for Conservation Program administered by the Kendall County SWCD provides cost-share assistance and other financial incentives for the construction or adoption of projects that conserve soil and protect water quality. Eligible practices include:

- Rain Gardens
- Cover Crops
- Water Well Sealing
- Grassed Waterways
- Filter Strips
- Grade Stabilization Controls
- Nutrient Management
- Streambank Stabilization

Special Projects - A component of our program that allows for unique practices to address resource needs not listed above. Examples include: stream crossings, windbreaks, urban retrofitting and ecologically sensitive area protection.

For detailed information or questions, contact our office. Take advantage of available cost-share funds while they last!

Cost Share Spotlight

Rain Gardens

Winter is a great time to start thinking about and planning for a garden. Interested in trying something new in your yard that looks beautiful and benefits the environment? A rain garden is a shallow depression, planted with native plants, that absorbs rain water from impervious surfaces like the roof of your home. Native plants are well adapted to local conditions and include grasses, flowers, sedges, forbs and legumes. The native plant's root structure allows water to slowly filter into the ground rather than runoff into a storm sewer. It also allows it to access water sources other plants aren't able to reach (which is very helpful during drought conditions). Landowners interested in planting a rain garden are eligible for cost-share through the Partners for Conservation Program. In addition, we can help you plan and design your garden - it's easy!

Cover Crops

Cover crops are gaining popularity, locally, as a conservation practice to improve soil quality, water availability and manage pests as well as nutrients on the farm. State and Federal conservation programs administered locally by the Kendall County SWCD and USDA-NRCS, respectively, promote cover crops as an agricultural best management practice. Interested in incorporating cover crops into your rotation? The Yorkville Field Office has the technical and financial assistance to help! Contact the office for more information or to learn more about:

- What to look for when selecting a cover crop (ex. fast germination & emergence, competitiveness, tolerance to climate & soil conditions, cost, fertility/soil quality benefit, etc.)
- Matching your objectives to cover crop species (ex. grazing, reducing compaction, nitrogen fixation, residue & nutrient cycling, etc.)
- Key considerations (ex. how to seed, equipment, etc.)

Thank you for sponsoring "Agriculture in the Classroom!!!"

Kendall Co. Farm Bureau Young Leaders
Kendall Co. Farm Bureau Foundation
Kendall Co. Corn Growers
Elburn Coop

Kendall Co. Beef Producers
Kendall Co. Pork Producers
Land O' Lakes Foundation
Severson Trucking

(and many others who support us through participating in and sponsoring the annual golf outing). We appreciate all you do to make it possible for us to bring agriculture literacy to teachers and students in Kendall County!
UPCOMING EVENTS

Pond Seminar
Tuesday, March 12th
Grundy County Farm Bureau at 6:00 pm
Please join the Kendall County Soil & Water Conservation District for our annual spring Pond Seminar.

The seminar will be conducted by Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Biologist, Rob Miller. Information will be provided on pond maintenance/care, fish stocking rates, pond shocking, chemicals, feed and related questions. A light dinner will be provided, free of charge, and door prizes will be awarded.

For additional information or to sign up, please contact the Kendall County SWCD office at 630-553-5821 extension 3.

Spring Fish Sale
Several species are available to stock your pond each Spring and Fall. Additional order forms are available online!

Triploid Grass Carp Orders: Friday, March 15th
Other Orders Due: Tuesday, March 26th
Fish Pick-up: Friday, April 5th at 10:00 am

Spring Tree Sale
Each Fall and Spring, purchase a variety of trees for your conservation needs. Additional order forms are available online!

Tree Orders Due: Friday, April 19th
Tree Pick-up: Friday, April 26th from 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Used Oil Pick Up
Saturday, June 15th
9:00 am to 12:00 pm
The District will once again host its Annual Used Oil Pickup. All citizens are encouraged to bring their used oil for proper disposal. We ask that you take back any containers. For used oil amounts in excess of 300 gallons, call the SWCD office for onsite pickup arrangements. The SWCD will accept donations for providing this service.

RAIN BARREL SALE
55 Gallon
NOW ONLY $65.00

Sealing a Water Well
Financial assistance is available for owners of unused wells who wish to seal such wells. Proper and timely sealing of abandoned water well protects groundwater from potential contamination and is required by state law. Any individual who has water well on their property within Kendall County is eligible for cost-share assistance to seal their well. For landowners, cost-share is $400.00 or 60% of the actual cost, whichever is less.

Have you tested your water lately?
In addition to the tap water test kit, we now carry Watersafe® test kits specifically designed for testing well water. This test is designed to help you test quickly and easily for the most common contaminants found in private well water, including: iron, copper, lead, bacteria, toxins from pesticides and fertilizers, nitrates, nitrites, unsafe levels of chlorine, pH and hardness. The cost of this test is $29.80. Call our office today to order your test kit. Phone no. 630-553-5821 X3.

Invasive Plant Species
Slowly, but persistently, making their way across the land, ecologically invasive plants are the silent invaders of our times. These unwanted plants destroy over three million acres each year in the United States and the annual cost of combating this invasion of damaging invasive plants is in excess of $35 billion. An invasive species is any species not native to a particular ecosystem and whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm. For more information on invasive plants species you can go to www.invasive.org or stop by our office for a list. There are many ways to become involved. Many State parks are looking for volunteers to manage this problem.
COORDINATOR CORNER

This past year has been a busy one for the Education program! Through classroom presentations, the program was able to reach over 5,000 students! Students learned about agriculture, natural resources, and conservation through these presentations. All of this outreach would not be possible without the generous support and involvement of many organizations and individuals throughout Kendall County. I can say without a doubt that we have an amazing agriculture community in Kendall County! I look forward to continue our efforts to tell the story of agriculture to youth and adults alike in 2013!

Sincerely,

Jenny Wold, Education Coordinator

Celebrating Agriculture

Every day is a good day to teach about agriculture, but March 19th is an especially good day. March 19th marks National Ag Day, a day set up to recognize and celebrate all that the agriculture industry provides us with. The Ag in the Classroom program will be celebrating agriculture in many ways this year. First, as usual, we will be donating a book to all schools, through the 2nd grades enrolled in programming. The book being donated this year is What’s New on the Farm? by DK Publishing and Parachute Press. In addition to the book donation, the program will be hosting a teacher workshop/training on Ag Day and holding a lesson/activity contest. For more information on any of these Ag Day activities, contact Jenny at kendallaitc@yahoo.com. For lessons, activities, and resources for teaching about agriculture, visit Illinois Ag in the Classroom’s website at www.agintheclasseoom.org.

Intern Introduction

The Farm Bureau and Ag in the Classroom program have been fortunate to have Deanna Drew, a senior at Newark High School, serve as an intern this school year. Deanna has been involved in many projects as part of this internship. She has designed and created bulletin boards at Newark Grade School, prepped resource materials to be used in the classroom, developed agriculture literacy activities, and has helped present the Ag in the Classroom program at many schools. Deanna will continue this internship until she graduates in the fall. After graduating she will attend Murray State University in Kentucky to pursue a degree in Agriculture Education. We wish her the best of luck and thank her for the time she has put in to help teach Kendall County youth about agriculture.

Calling All SAI Alums & Ag Ambassadors

Have you participated in our Summer Agriculture Institute? If so, we would love to see you at a training we’ll be hosting on National Ag Day, March 19th, 4:30-6:30pm. At this training, you’ll be able to learn about new educational resources, hear from professionals in the agriculture industry, and interact with other teachers, such as yourself. For attending, you will receive 2 CPDUs and lots of resources. As an additional incentive, we’ll be serving up cupcakes and coffee! Location will be determined soon. Email kendallaitc@yahoo.com or call 630-553-5821, x 3 by March 5th if you’d like to attend.
**Water-themed Poster Contest**

This year, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has titled their annual stewardship week "Where Does Your Water Shed?" As part of this stewardship week, April 28-May 4, NACD will be hosting a poster contest for students in K-12th grade. As a part of the Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District, the education program will be sponsoring this contest at the local level. Students are encouraged to create posters that tell the story of how and where water flows in their community, essentially a poster showing their own unique watershed. They should be completed on 8.5"x11" to 22"x28" paper and done in color. For more specific poster guidelines, an entry form, or guidance, please contact Jenny Wold at kendallaite@yahoo.com or 630-553-5821, ext. 3. All posters should be submitted to the Kendall County Soil and Water Conservation District at 7777A Route 47, Yorkville, IL 60560 by Friday, April 5th.

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**Book Spotlight**

**Title:** How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World  
**By:** Marjorie Priceman

This book is such a great way to help students learn that their food actually comes from somewhere, not just the grocery store. In it, the main character is able to see how a simple food such as apple pie might actually be a bit more complicated. Each ingredient leads to the discovery of another country that might have produced it. Very fun! Check it out today.

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**Teachers: Great Grad Class Opportunity**

Are you looking for a great graduate course to take this summer? This year, the program will once again co-host a Summer Agriculture Institute with the Kendall, Grundy, and Will County Farm Bureaus. This institute/course introduces teachers to every aspect of the agriculture industry from farm to barge to train. It will provide teachers with an overview of the agriculture in their county as well as the surrounding counties. It will also provide teachers opportunities to learn about interesting topics such as Renewable Energy, GPS, and legislation impacting the Food and Fiber Industry. Finally, teachers will learn how all of these topics can be applied easily in their curriculum and be given lesson and activity ideas as well as resource materials to make this possible. It will be held on July 17-19 and 22-23rd. It can be taken for 3 graduate credits through Aurora University at a cost of $500 or for CPDUs at a cost of $200. To learn more about this class, contact Jenny Wold by email at kendallaite@yahoo.com or by phone at 630-553-5821, ext. 3. To register, call the Professional Development Alliance at 815-744-8337 or visit www.pdaonline.org.

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**Farmers in the Classroom**

Second graders from around the county have been lucky to have very special visitors throughout the past couple months as part of the Ag in the Classroom program. Several local farmers have volunteered their time to help present the 2nd Ag in the Classroom lesson, Agriculture Explorations. While in the classroom, farmers talk to students about their farm and then travel around the classroom to teach about the machinery used on farms. It is a great opportunity for students to interact with and ask questions to a real farmer. It is the hope of the program, that this opportunity will lead students to a better understanding and appreciation of where their food comes from and who produces it. Farmers who have participated so far this year include David Wheeler, Jim Hopkins, Phil Thanepohn, Mike Brummel, Nick Schlapp and Matt Kellogg. Several others will be visiting classrooms throughout the month of February. Thanks to all involved for taking the time to teach about agriculture in the classrooms!
Air Quality Initiative Funding to Plant Cover Crops

Want $25 to $38 an acre to plant cover Crops?

Incentive payment of $25 to $38 an acre is available to plant cover crops. You can receive three years of funding to plant cover crops under the Air Quality Initiative.

The Air Quality Initiative helps farmers address air quality concerns by establishing conservation practices such as cover crops and other conservation measures that mitigate and prevent air quality problems.

Cover Crops help improve soil health. They reduce soil erosion, increase organic matter, improve soil structure, soil microbiology, reduce soil compaction, and increase soil infiltration.

The most commonly planted cover crops are oats, cereal rye, crimson clover, oilseed radish and annual ryegrass. The payment rate per acre depends on which cover crop is being planted:

⇒ Winter Kill Species-- $24.92/Ac (Oats, oilseed radish)
⇒ Grass or Cereal Grains-- $36.64/Ac (Annual ryegrass, Cereal rye)
⇒ Species Mix-- $37.13/Ac (Mixtures of grasses, legumes & winter kill species)
⇒ Legumes-- $38.17/Ac (Crimson clover, hairy vetch)
⇒ Organic Cover Crop-- $74.14/Ac

For more information on Cover Crops or other conservation practices eligible for the Air Quality Initiative, contact the Kendall NRCS Field Office at 630-553-5821 ext. 3.
Tree-rrific!

Did you know that April 26th is Arbor Day? The first Arbor Day was celebrated on April 10th, 1872 in Nebraska. The idea for Arbor Day came from Julius Sterling Morton, a journalist and politician in Nebraska. He proposed that this day be “set aside dedicated to tree planting and increasing awareness of the importance of trees” (www.arbor-day.net).

The first Arbor Day was a huge success. Over 1 million trees were planted in the state of Nebraska! Find the names of trees below in the word search to discover which ones you might like to plant this Arbor Day in your community.

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B I R C H E B R O W N I B C R O S R P S
E A H N A P P L E I T A U E N N O A O E Y
A U G S O Y M I L E D T C I S T D S P I D
N G U C R E W U O T E R K E C A U P L P O
C A T A L P A E C A M O E E T N B F A E G
T I D I S T L Y U L A N Y C I S D I R R W
B R E N R C N O S O P C E I C N R W M O
U O I I E E U F T C L A H P E A R R A I O
T L K E U R T E C O E N H S L C R Y R T D
T O O A K N S L E H T D P I N E Y G T O T
E C O S P T U L I P T R E E Ô N M A S P O
S P R U C E O A D S N I W I L L O W A V C
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Birch  Buckeye  Catalpa  Locust  Maple  Oak  Poplar  Red Bud Tulip
Tree   Willow   Walnut   Fir    Pine    Spruce  Dogwood  Apple