

**DEKALB COUNTY SWCD**  
**Minutes from April 15, 2021 Board Meeting**

**Supervisors:**

Sarah Delbecq, Chair  
Jeff Conrad, Vice Chair  
Steve Provines  
Steve Watson  
Judy Strock

**ISDA:**

Kate Sanders, RS

**SWCD:**

Nellie Peffley  
Julie Knudson  
Cameron Bell  
Bill Ward

**NRCS:**

Derek Thompson

**Vice Chair Jeff Conrad called the April 15, 2021 board meeting to order at 7:01p.m. (*This meeting was held at the County Courthouse Annex conference room due the Covid 19 pandemic and to easily comply with social distancing rules. In addition masks were made available.*)**

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

- **Minutes:** Vice Chair Jeff Conrad asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 2021 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Minutes are approved as sent.
- **Financial Report:** Jeff Conrad asked for approval of claims 8460-8470 and deposits D676E-D677. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8460 through 8470 and deposits 676E-677 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Rain Barrel Workshop:** Nellie Peffley reported the workshop scheduled for Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> is full. Anyone who would like to help out please contact her or Julie Knudson.
- **Doc Coleman Landing:** Nellie Peffley reported her and Bill Ward are meeting with the Commissioners on Monday April 19<sup>th</sup> to propose adding native trees and pollinator plot to the landing area. She had a map of the area showing what they would like to do for the board to review and will take to the meeting on Monday. She will let the board know of any decisions made.
- **Hague Nature Area:** Nellie Peffley reported her and Bill Ward met with DNR District Forester Quentin Bearhs. They walked through HNA so Bearhs could create a management plan and offer any advice on invasives, what needs to be planted, etc. He said the area looks good with what's been done so far. Mr. Bearhs will write up a management plan however, it could be a couple weeks before it is completed.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **District Cost Share Program (DCSP):** Nellie Peffley reported three new applications have been received needing approval for participation. Also, an application that had been approved back in April 2020 will expire on April 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year. A 6 month extension is requested. The applications are from:
  - T. Schiffli for pollinator plot
  - B. Ice for invasive tree removal/replacement
  - L. Koble for septic replacement
  - S. Reynolds septic replacement; 6 month extension

The board reviewed the applications and Mr. Reynold's file. Jeff Conrad moved to approve T. Schiffli, B. Ice and L. Koble for participation in the District Cost Share Program and grant a 6 month extension to S. Reynold's contract. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **Website:** [www.dekalbcountyswcd.com](http://www.dekalbcountyswcd.com) Nellie Peffley explained the website's Board Portal. She is planning on having any DCSP applications along with the agenda, draft minutes and board update posted to the website portal. It is password protected, however the names, addresses and any other vital information on the applications will be redacted when posted. Nellie asked if the board would prefer to just use the website portal to receive their agenda, minutes and update or if they would like to continue to receive a hard copy in the mail. The board decided to continue to receive hard copies for now. However, Nellie will post the information and email the board when done.
- **IASWCD Northeast Indiana Region meeting:** Nellie Peffley reported IASWCD has scheduled a virtual Northeast Indiana Region meeting for Thursday June 17 at 7:00pm. She pointed out this is the same day and time as our regularly scheduled board meeting. Nellie asked if the board would be willing to meet at 5:30pm that day for the board meeting and stay for the region meeting. The board members decided to table the request and will make a decision when closer to the date.
- **Finance Committee:** Nellie Peffley informed the board she would like to form a finance committee which would include her, Julie Knudson and any board member that would like to join. The committee would work on setting up a budget for certain expenditures. Judy Strock volunteered to join the committee.
- **Key Program Areas:**
  - District Cost Share Program (DCSP): Nellie Peffley asked the board what practices they would like to keep in the program and what any new practices added. The board and staff discussed the request. It was decided to keep the well capping practice at this time with more promotion and to add urban garden soil sampling. The staff will put together a procedure/guideline for the soil sampling.
    - Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist for ISDA reported that they have a soil sampling program for Ag land located in the Western Lake Erie Basin (WLEB). It does include manure sampling. The program is available to most of DeKalb County. She informed the board that if a small farm would like their field soil tested her or another RS will pull the samples. If it is a large farm the RS will try to connect the producer with a CCA to pull the samples. However the program does not include garden samples. She also wanted to stress that the information is not shared to the public. Kate will have an updated brochure available for the district to use very soon.
- **Other Updates:**
  - **Boy Scouts Mulching:** Nellie Peffley reported Bill Ward has scheduled the Boy Scouts to mulch the Hague Nature Area path on Monday April 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm. Everyone is welcome to help out.
  - **New Supervisor Meeting:** Nellie Peffley reported a New Supervisor virtual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday April 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm. Jennifer Thum, ISDA DSS sent an email with the link. If anyone is interested and did not receive the email please contact Nellie.
- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist**
  - Received 51 applications for the EQIP program. So far 23 have been pre-approved.
  - Derek held a Planter Clinic at his property this past Tuesday.
  - Derek attended WLEB stakeholders meeting
  - Office doors are still locked and only 50% of staff can work in office. However, now able to have in person meetings by appointment only.
- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist**
  - CWI grant guidance will be released sometime in May. Kate will let the district know when it is available.
  - Reminder: new employees are required to watch the Preventing Sexual Harassment and Internal Controls videos. You can contact Kate or Jennifer Thum to get set up.

- If anyone would like to use Microsoft Team for a virtual meeting to contact Jennifer Thum
- Kate had available Water Quality Test Kits (test strips) for agricultural use. These are available for producers to test water leaving their fields after installing or using conservation practices. They are NOT used for regulatory purposes or to compare with neighbors. She gave 2 kits for the district to have available and distribute out of the office. She has more if needed.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

- May 20, 2021

#### **OTHER ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA**

No other business was presented. Steve Provines moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Conrad seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq \_\_\_\_\_

Judy Strock \_\_\_\_\_

Jeff Conrad \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Provines \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Watson \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_