

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from April 18, 2023 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Judy Strock, Vice Chair
Jeff Conrad, Supervisor
Bruce Bell II, Associate Supervisor
Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor

Absent:

Steve Provines, Supervisor
Justin Hoover, Supervisor

SWCD:

Nellie Peffley, District Director
Julie Knudson, District Coordinator
Cameron Straw, Resource Technician
Bill Ward, Conservation Technician

ISDA: Kate Sanders, RS

NRCS: Derek Thompson, DC

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the April 18, 2023 board meeting to order at 8:11 am.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the March 2023 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the April 18, 2023 minutes as written. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of March claims 8742-8760 and deposits D765-D769. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8742 through 8760 and deposits D765-D769 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Open Discussion:**
 - Nellie brought up Clean Water Indiana grant for ideas and discussion. The cost share program was brought up as a possible grant request. The board discussed the idea and potential problems with timing. Well capping was also discussed. Nellie updated the board on her discussions with Toby Days and local municipalities. The problem would be finding a certified well driller willing to do the work. After much discussion Nellie asked the board to bring any other ideas to the May board meeting. The grant proposal is due in September and she would like to have plenty of time to research and write the grant.

NEW BUSINESS

- **County Budget:** Nellie reported she received an email from the Auditor's office regarding the 2024 county budget. The instructions state to only request operating funds at no more than 5% increase and the county council will take care of employee wages. The board discussed the budget and suggested to look at past and current expenses to come up with an amount that is actually needed due to inflation. Nellie will bring the budget request with the board suggestions to the next meeting for a vote.
- **Soil Judging:** Nellie reported she has spoken to Dave Lefforge from ISDA who has worked and judged soil contests in the past. She had available information on how to hold a contest. It was suggested to contact the local FFA teachers to make sure there is interest in having a county soil judging contest. Also contact Purdue Extension Youth Educator. Jeff Conrad said he has a few locations that may be used for the contest. Nellie will look into the possibility and report back.
- **CSGP Review Fees:** Nellie reported her and Cameron Straw have been discussing increasing the current CSGP review fees. A breakdown of the current fees were included in the minutes packet. Cameron spoke on how much time she spends on reviewing plans and had available information on what other surrounding counties charge to review. The discussion was for raising the commercial fees only. Private residence fees would stay the same. The board looked over the information provided and

after much discussion suggested raising the fee to \$100 per acre for commercial projects. Jeff Conrad moved to approve raising the CSGP review fee for commercial projects to \$100/acre. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **Cedar Creek Cleanup:** Nellie reported Auburn Conservation Team (ACT) asked if the district would be willing to take over scheduling and planning of the annual cedar creek cleanup. Cody Burniston and Bill Ward who are part of ACT thought the event was something the district would be better suited to do. Last year's event was a field day with local conservation agencies and county departments setting up booths and providing education information to the public. Cody and Bill stated there is no money involved just contacting and setting everything up. They were asked about liability. Cody reported the county attorney created a liability form everyone would have to sign if they were to float in the creek. After discussion the board agreed to take over the event. Nellie will hold a planning meeting in the near future.
- **Drill Cover:** Nellie reported a drill cover was requested. She had available a quote on the cost for a custom made cover. Bill Ward has contacted the manufacturer and was told they did not make covers so would have to have one made. His concern was that renters will most likely not put the cover on after being used. The board discussed the issue. It was brought up that winter storage should take care of any problems. Staff also looked into a car port and thought maybe the county commissioners would allow one to be put up at the county farm. Or even storing the drill in a pole barn currently being used by the highway department. Bill and Nellie will talk with commissioners about options.

NRCS Update: Derek Thompson, DC

- Derek reported EQIP and CSP sign up is wrapping up. However it looks like there is a possibility Indiana may get more funding.

ISDA Update: Kate Sanders, RS

- Nothing new to report

NEXT MEETING: Note date & time change

- Tuesday May 16, 2023 @ 8:00am

Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10:19am

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq

Jeff Conrad

Justin Hoover

Judy Strock

Steve Provines

Recorder

Date: 5-16-23