

**DEKALB COUNTY SWCD**  
**Minutes from August 19, 2021 Board Meeting**

**Supervisors:**

Sarah Delbecq, Chair  
Jeff Conrad, Vice Chair  
Judy Strock, via tele-conf

**NRCS:**

Derek Thompson, NRCS

**ISDA:**

Kate Sanders

**SWCD:**

Nellie Peffley  
Julie Knudson  
Bill Ward  
Cameron Bell

**Absent:**

Steve Provines, Supervisor  
Steve Watson, Supervisor

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the August 19, 2021 board meeting to order at 7:00p.m

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

- **Minutes:** Chair Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the July 2021 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the July 15, 2021 minutes as written. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of claims 8512-8520 and deposits D688-D689. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8512 through 8520 and deposits 688-689 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Agronomy Field Day:** Nellie reported the field day had a good turnout. A follow up meeting in September is being planned.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **District Cost Share Program (DCSP):**

\*Nellie had one application requesting approval for participation:

- K. Leonard for invasive tree removal/replacement
- J & D Burns for septic replacement

The board reviewed the application. Jeff Conrad moved to approve participation for K. Leonard in the District Cost Share Program. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **Part time position:** Nellie reported the Job Classification Sub-Committee and County Council has approved Cameron Bell go from part time to full time. However, the stipulation is the District must fund the difference needed for the full time payroll for the rest of 2021. Jeff Conrad moved to move \$4200 out of the Rule 5 account and send to the County Auditor to cover the full time position payroll for the rest of 2021. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.  
*(Note: an Executive Session was held prior to the board meeting with Nellie Peffley supplying the numbers for the difference so the board could examine and hold any discussions.)*
- **Community Foundation:** Nellie reported she received notice from the Foundation that the District account has had a zero balance for many years. Nellie was informed that so far the Foundation does not have any rules regarding closing accounts due to zero balances. However that could change in the future. The board discussed this and decided to leave the account open for now. They suggested

coming up with a marketing strategy, such as putting the information on our website and focus on using any funds for specific events or issues.

- **Finance:** Nellie brought the following for the board's review and/or approval:
  - **IASWCD Dues:** Nellie reported she received an invoice from Indiana Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (IASWCD) for their annual dues of \$2000. After discussion, Jeff Conrad moved to pay the annual dues of \$2000 to IASWCD. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
  - **Surety Bonds:** Nellie reported the District is currently being audited by State Board of Accounts (SBOA). The auditor noticed the District does not have a large enough surety bond. According to SBOA the District is required to have at least a \$30,000 bond. Julie Knudson requested a quote from Farm Bureau who holds the liability insurance for all Districts. The quote came back at \$137.50 per year. After discussion, Jeff Conrad moved to pay the \$137.50 per year to IN Farm Bureau for a \$30,000 surety bond. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Jeff Conrad also asked that Julie look into the cost for a \$50,000 bond and bring back the amount to a future meeting.
  - **QuickBooks:** Nellie reported she inquired about the cost for upgrading the District's current QuickBooks software to allow more than one user. She contacted the County IT Dept. who was able to get a quote for around \$700. After discussion, Jeff Conrad moved to purchase an upgrade for QuickBooks to allow for more than one user. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **No-till Drill Storage Situation:** Nellie reported the building that the drill has been stored in on the County Farm is in disrepair. The drill was moved and being stored in a building on Supervisor Steve Provines property. However, Bill Ward reported he had trouble maneuvering the drill around in that location. It is now back at the County Farm outside of the original building. Supervisor Jeff Conrad thought he might have a building on his farm that it could be stored in. He asked Bill to come out some day and see what he thinks. Chairperson Sarah Delbecq also may have a spot available to store the drill on their farm. Bill will check out both spaces in the near future.
  - Also, the drill needs new tires. Bill received a quote for \$450 each with labor around \$1000. However, the board has approved up to \$1500 for maintenance on the drill without prior board approval. Bill just wanted make the board aware of the potentially large purchase.
- **CWI Grant:** Nellie had a draft copy of the CWI grant application for the board to review. The grant deadline for submittal is September 9, 2021. The board reviewed the draft application. Nellie told the board she should have a final copy ready by September 1<sup>st</sup>. After discussion, Jeff Conrad moved to approve the CWI Grant application pending the final draft for the board to review by September 1, 2021. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

## OTHER UPDATES:

- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist:**
  - **EQIP Local Ranking:** Derek conducted the EQIP Local Ranking meeting for FY 2022. Please refer to Derek's minutes of the meeting for further details.
  - **Agronomy Field Day:** Derek reported the field day went well. He thanked Cameron Bell for her help with his video presentation on the tile camera. He will be giving the same presentation on September 8 at Roemke's Farm located in Woodburn.
  - **Cover Crop Site:** Derek reported he has permission to put in a cover crop plot to use with the tile camera at an existing site.
  - **CRP:** Derek reported CRP is starting to wind down. Bill Ward and Kate Sanders are pretty much done with their part of the process.

- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist:**
  - **Conservation Link:** Kate reported Conservation Link now has the transect information available for review.
  - **ISDA Personnel:** Kate reported DSS Jennifer Thum has been promoted to Deputy Director. RS Keith Hurst has been named the new Team Leader. Because of the hiring freeze the NNE Region will not have a new DSS for a while. The Regional Specialists (RS) will take on some duties and other DSS around the state will be assigned to help out also. DSS Laura Fribley has been assigned to DeKalb County.
  - Kate reported Spotted Lantern Fly has been found in southern Indiana around the Ohio River. She asked if anyone should see anything that even looks like this invasive insect to please report it.

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

- Nellie Peffley asked if everyone was OK with changing the September board meeting to Tuesday September 14<sup>th</sup>. Everyone agreed.

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

- Tuesday September 14 @ 7:00pm

No other business was presented. Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:55pm.

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

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

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

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

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

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

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