

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from August 21, 2023 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Jeff Conrad, Supervisor
Judy Strock, Vice Chair
Bruce Bell II, Associate Supervisor
Justin Hoover, Supervisor

Absent:

Steve Provines, Supervisor
Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor

SWCD:

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

NRCS:

Derek Thompson

ISDA:

Kate Sanders, ISDA

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the August 21, 2023 board meeting to order at 8:07am.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the July 2023 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the July 19, 2023 minutes as written. Justin Hoover seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of July claims 8793-8798 and deposits D790-D792. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8793 through 8798 and deposits D790-D792 as presented. Justin Hoover seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Agronomy Field Day:** Nellie reported the field day had a good turnout. This year all presentations were given in the warehouse. A survey was handed out and quite a few mentioned they prefer the presentations outdoors like in the past. There will be a follow-up meeting in the near future and will begin planning next year's event.
- **LARE/CWI:** Nellie pointed out the district updates has the schedule for the LARE grant. She will meet with the commissioners for approval to resubmit requests for bids on the project. Nellie suggested requesting a CWI grant for additional funding to help cover the unexpected increase in the cost of the project. Board and staff discussed this request. After much discussion the board agreed to go ahead and submit a CWI grant to help with the LARE project.
- **SOIL Judging:** Nellie reported Dave Lefforge, ISDA has marked the locations on the field to be used for the judging event. Arthur Franke, NRCS has agreed to assist with the judging contest. Nellie reported so far Eastside High School and Hamilton High School has committed to participate. Nellie will contact the new FFA teacher at DeKalb Central High School and let him know about the event. Sarah Delbecq said they will be able to dig the holes with a backhoe for the contest. Nellie reminded the board the soil judging contest is scheduled for Friday September 8 at 9am.
- **Cedar Creek Clean Up:** Nellie reminded the board the Cedar Creek Clean Up event is Saturday August 26th beginning at 9am. Acres and City of Auburn Stormwater Pollution Control along with the district will have booths at Doc Coleman Landing. The clean up will end at Eckhart Park where there will be a light lunch for the volunteers. A van will be available to transport the volunteers back to the launch site.
- **Well Capping Workshop:** Nellie reported the workshop is scheduled for September 20 which is the same day as the September board meeting. The event will be held at Rieke Park starting at 9am. She asked if the board would want to meet beforehand at 8am to handle any business. The board agreed to meet at Rieke Park at 8am on the 20th. The workshop will begin with a presentation from DNR

regarding well capping. The group will then head over to Steve Provines property for a demonstration and actual capping. The event should be over around noon.

- **Women Learning Circle:** Nellie reported she has not received a lot of information yet on the event from the Maumee Watershed Alliance. It is scheduled for September 21st at Rieke Park Lodge. She will keep the board updated as information is received.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Financial:**
 - **District Cost Share Program:** Nellie reported there are 2 applications about to expire. The first is from M Diehl for a pollinator planting. The planting was around the covered bridge in Spencerville and has been completed. Bill Ward has contacted Ms. Diehl and she will get an invoice to us soon. In the meantime, Nellie asked for a 6-month extension. Jeff Conrad moved to extend the DCSP contract for M. Diehl six months. Justin Hoover seconded the motion. Cote was unanimous. Motion passed.
The second application is from V. Duke for streambank stabilization. This is the second time they have applied for cost share funds and allowed the contract to expire. Bill Ward reported he has not heard anything from them since they were approved. The board rejected the request to extend their contract.
 - **ISDA Summer Meeting:** Nellie reported the Summer Summit meeting is scheduled for September 7th 6pm-8pm at Par-Gil in LaGrange County. The cost is \$25/person. She asked the board to please let her know if interested in attending and will get them registered. Jeff Conrad and Sarah Delbecq both said they would like to attend.
 - **IASWCD Dues:** Nellie reported the IASWCD NE Indiana Region Representative called to let us know the yearly IASWCD dues are going to be increased next year to \$3000. She asked the board what they thought of the increase. The board would like to know why and what the increase will cover. Nellie will keep the board updated as new information is received.
- **Open Discussion:** Nellie asked for ideas on projects/programs...
 - **Hague Nature Area:** Bill Ward reported the new kiosk has been installed on the trail head. The trail signs are made just need to be ordered.

NRCS Update: Derek Thompson, DC

- **EQIP Ranking:** Derek had copies of last year's ranking for the board to use as a guide. He went over the resource concerns and asked if anyone had any changes they would like to make for 2024. Derek explained the process and why ranking is necessary for the new supervisors. The board reviewed and discussed the resource concerns and agreed to keep the ranking the same for 2024.

ISDA Update: Kate Sanders, RS

- **CREP:** Kate reported CREP is expanding across the state and will be available to DeKalb County citizens beginning next year. There will be a region meeting to decide which county will administer the program. The administering county will receive 10% compensation for their work. Kate explained the program to the board as a boost to CRP payments.
- **Soil Sampling Program:** Kate reported the soil sampling program is free on ag lands. However, it is only available to those lands that do not drain into the great lakes. Therefore, DeKalb County will not be eligible to participate in the program.

NEXT MEETING:

- **Monday September 20, 2023 @ 8:00am, Rieke Park Lodge**

Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned at 9:59am.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Justin Hoover _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____