

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from December 16, 2021 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Jeff Conrad, Vice Chair
Steve Provines, Supervisor
Steve Watson, Supervisor
Judy Strock, Supervisor
Justin Hoover, Associate Supervisor

SWCD:

Nellie Peffley
Julie Knudson
Bill Ward
Cameron Bell

NRCS:

Derek Thompson

Absent:

Kate Sanders, ISDA

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the December 16, 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 November 2021 minutes that had been provided to the board members. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the November 19, 2021 minutes as written. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of claims 8555-8568 and deposit D698. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8555 through 8568 and deposits 698 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Audit:** Nellie reported she finally spoke with someone at SBOA. She was able to ask about the timeline and other issues stated on the invoice. The invoice was much higher than surrounding districts and was not itemized. The person she spoke with agreed to reduce the amount due by \$350 but will look into the issues Nellie brought up. Nellie will keep the board informed as she is updated.
- **Rule 5 Review Fee:** Nellie spoke with the County Council liaison regarding the implementation of a fee for reviewing stormwater pollution plans. He indicated that the Council does not need to approve implementing a fee. She has sent an email to the County Commissioners asking if they need to approve a fee. She has not heard back from any of them yet. However, Nellie pointed out the board hasn't approved the fee schedule yet. After reviewing the proposed fee schedule Jeff Conrad moved to approve the Rule 5 fee structure presented and discussed at the October board meeting. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Policies:** Nellie had given the board members a manual with proposed district policies for review. These included: Capital Assets, Internal Controls, Credit Card, Supervisor attendance, Associate Supervisor, Travel/meals, etc. She asked if the Supervisors had any comments or edits. Sarah Delbecq suggested setting a specific amount of meetings such as 50% a Supervisor would be required to attend per year. After discussing the suggestion, the board agreed to the 50% attendance proposal. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the policy manual as presented with the Supervisor policy amendment. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Annual Conference:** Nellie reminded the board Steve Watson will sit as the DeKalb SWCD delegate at the IASWCD Annual Conference business meeting with Sarah Delbecq as alternate. Nellie informed the board there is only one resolution at this time that the delegates will vote on. The resolution is for setting term limits to the State Soil Board members. The board advised Steve W and Sarah to attend the briefing session and decide at that time how to vote.

NEW BUSINESS

- **District Cost Share Program (DCSP):** Nellie reported two new applications for participation were received. They were from Troy Lefevre for a native planting and Jack Conrad for a tree planting? The board reviewed both applications. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the applications from T. Lefevre and J. Conrad for participation in DCSP. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
Nellie reported she received one request for payment. The request was \$300 from K. Leonard for a completed invasive tree removal. The board reviewed the file. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$300 to K. Leonard for an invasive tree removal using DCSP funds. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **SJRWI:** Nellie reported she met with the SJRWI board members who asked if she would be interested in sitting on the board to represent DeKalb County. She asked the DeKalb board their opinion. They discussed the issue and told Nellie it is her choice whether she wishes to sit on the SJRWI board or not. Nellie will attend a SJRWI board meeting and make her decision then.
- **2022 Proposed meeting schedule:** Nellie had a survey for the board members to complete with several options for meeting times. She asked the board to choose which times would work best for them and return to her by the end of the meeting. Nellie will go over results and will discuss with the board at a future meeting.
- **Tree Sale:** Nellie and Bill Ward met with the City of Auburn Parks Dept. to discuss their annual tree sale. The Parks Dept. plan on continuing with their tree sapling give away. Nellie and Bill asked if they would allow the District to have larger trees available for sale at their giveaway. The tree giveaway is scheduled for April 30, 2022. The Parks Dept. said it would be OK. Nellie and Bill proposed to the board purchasing 50 Serviceberry and 50 redbud trees in 3 gallon buckets. The total for the 100 trees would be \$1752.50 (serviceberry \$18/e; redbud \$17.25/e. Associate Supervisor Justin Hoover will check with SDI to see if they would be willing to help sponsor by donating fund to purchase the trees. Nellie and Bill informed the board this first year would be a way to see if there is interest by the community for purchasing trees. The board discussed the proposal. Jeff Conrad moved to purchase 100 tree for \$1762.50 for the April tree sale. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Equipment-Drill/Tree Planter:** Nellie had a spreadsheet showing income and expenses for the drill since its purchase in 2013. She asked the board if they wish to keep the drill, sell it and purchase a different type of equipment. The board discussed the issue. They asked Bill to get together numbers and costs for a smaller drill and bring back to a future meeting.

OTHER UPDATES:

- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist:**
 - **Annual Conference:** Derek informed the board attending the Annual Conference for NRCS is optional this year. He has decided not to attend.
 - **USDA Office:** Derek reported the office is back at 25% staffing due to the upswing in virus cases.
 - **ARS:** Derek reported Chi Huang at ARS is retiring as well as Stan Livingston. He and Nellie were asked to sit in on interviews for replacement of the head scientist for ARS located in Lafayette.
- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist:** absent

OTHER ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

- No other business was presented.

NEXT MEETING:

- Thursday January 20, 2022 @ 7:00pm. Location to be determined depending on USDA requirements. (check agenda for location)

Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:19pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Steve Watson _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____