

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from December 19, 2022 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

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

Guest:

Bruce Bell, II

SWCD:

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

NRCS:

Derek Thompson, DC

Absent:

Kate Sanders, RS

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the December 15, 2022 board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Sarah Delbecq, Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the November 2022 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the November 17, 2022 minutes as written. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of November claims 8700-8710 and deposits D750-D751. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8700 through 8710 and deposits D750-D751 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Annual Meeting:** Nellie informed the board the annual meeting will be held on March 8, 2023 at the DeKalb County Fairground's Exhibit Hall. She has contacted and waiting for a response from Larry Clemens from TNC about speaking at the meeting. Dutch Heritage has been confirmed as caterer.
- **2023 IASWCD Annual Conference:** Nellie reminded everyone the annual conference will be held January 8-10, 2023 in Indianapolis. Everyone who requested to attend has been registered and lodging reserved and will leave from office on Monday January 9th. Nellie asked the supervisors attending who wished to act as delegate for the business meeting on Tuesday January 10th. The delegate has to be submitted no later than December 30 to be able to sit and vote at the meeting. Steve Provines volunteered to be the delegate with Judy Strock as alternate. Julie Knudson will submit their names before the deadline. Nellie then brought up the four resolutions that will be voted on at the meeting. The board members discussed the resolutions and decided on how the district would vote. However, they did agree that Steve Provines could change the vote after sitting through the resolution preview meeting and hearing more information on the issues.
- **Winter Cover Crop Discussion Group:** Nellie reported the meeting held on December 7th was well attended with 15 people participating. The discussion and participation was very good.

NEW BUSINESS

- **DCSP:** Nellie reported she has one contract that is complete and requesting payment. The request is from JB Farms for \$2238.60 for a pollinator planting. The board reviewed the file. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$2238.60 to JB Farms from District Cost Share funds. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Urban Soil Health Program:** Nellie reported an invoice from IASWCD was received for the annual payment of \$1700. This is the second of five years the District has committed to.

- **Marketing:** Nellie asked the board if any members are interested in a sweatshirt with logo. If so, let her or Julie know and they will be ordered.
- **Board Retreat:** Nellie reported the Rieke Lodge cannot be reserved for 2023 until January 1. So at this time she asked the board to keep Friday January 20 and January 27 open. As soon as the date is confirmed she will notify the board. At the retreat the board needs to update the expiring business plan, go over Conflict of Interest form and district policies. Nellie did ask the board to review the existing business plan and let her know of any comments, recommendations, etc before the January 19 board meeting.
- **Other Topics:**
 - Nellie reported her and Steve Provines met with the Auburn Mayor regarding well capping. The Mayor offered paying 50% up to \$500 to help with the expense to cap abandoned wells in their wellhead protection area. Nellie also found out NRCS has an option to help with decommissioning wells. Derek Thompson, District Conservationist reported that there is a process but it is available. Nellie and Steve will continue the well capping discussion at future meetings.
 - Cody Burniston asked Nellie about her meeting with the Surveyor regarding the Cedar Creek Design LARE grant. Nellie explained and is hoping to request bids soon.
 - Cameron Straw gave an update on the district website. She has added pages along with more info in the supervisor portal.
 - Bill Ward reported the pollinator planting is scheduled for Tuesday December 20 at Doc Coleman Landing. They will be broadcasting the seed. If anyone wants to watch or participate just be at the site by 9:00am.

NRCS Update: Derek Thompson, DC

- Derek reported he will be attending the IASWCD Annual Conference in January.
- Derek reported he attended an EQIP rollout meeting and working on applications.
- Derek wanted to thank Bill Ward and Kate Sanders for their help with CRP status reviews.

ISDA Update: Kate Sanders, RS (absent no report given)

NEXT MEETING:

- Thursday January 19, 2023 @7:00pm

Judy Strock moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Watson seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Steve Watson _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____