

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from February 16, 2023 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

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

SWCD:

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

NRCS: Derek Thompson, DC

ISDA: Kate Sanders, RS

Absent: Bill Ward, SWCD Conservation Technician

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the February 16, 2023 board meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the January 2023 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the January 19, 2023 minutes as written. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of January claims 8724-8731 and deposits D754-D755. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8724 through 8731 and deposits D754-D755 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Annual Meeting:** Nellie reminded the board of the annual meeting scheduled for March 8th to be held at the DeKalb County Fairgrounds Exhibit building. She went over the agenda for the evening.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Financial:**
 - **NACD-**Nellie reported the annual NACD membership dues invoice was received. She had a copy of the invoice with the various level options. The board discussed the amounts. They asked Nellie to check with other counties as to what level they contribute and also to check with the State Association if they know how many counties pay NACD dues.
 - **IDEA Dues-** Nellie reported the Indiana District Employee Association (IDEA) 2023 membership dues of \$25/employee is also due by March 31. She requested payment for all 4 employees. The board discussed the request. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$100 to IDEA to cover all four employees' 2023 membership dues. Steve Provines seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Urban Garden Series:** Nellie reported a workshop on urban gardening has been scheduled for Saturday April 1st 10am – noon at the JAM Center in Garrett. Jamie Perry from IASWCD Urban Soil Health will speak on how to get a garden started, raised beds, etc. Nellie requested approval to provide free soil testing to those attending as a giveaway. The cost would come from District Cost Share funds, however will be less expensive than our normal soil testing program. Nellie explained there will be specific limitations for those wishing to have their soil tested. The board discussed the request. Jeff Conrad moved to approve paying for the reduced soil testing cost from DCSP funds for the workshop attendees within the set parameters. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **Rain Barrel Workshop:** Nellie reported the annual spring rain barrel workshop is scheduled for Saturday April 22nd at the City of Auburn Pollution Control facility from 10am-noon.
- **Native Plant Sale:** Nellie reported it was brought up at last month's meeting the possibility of holding a native plant sale. She contacted Stantec who would supply the spring native plant kits. The kits contain 50 plugs for \$150. This would be a pre-order sale only. Nellie had a draft copy of a flyer with kits available and orders with payment due by March 29. Pickup would be early June. The board discussed the sale and reviewed the flyer. They were OK with both.
- **Tree Sale:** Nellie reported the second annual tree sale is scheduled for Saturday April 29th. It will be in conjunction with the Auburn Parks Dept spring fling. She reported Bill Ward contacted Woody Warehouse and came up with four species for this year's sale however will stick with a total of 100 trees. There will be a limit of 2 trees per household. The board discussed the sale and are OK with moving forward.
- **DCSP: Well Capping-**Nellie reported her and Steve Provines have been reaching out and meeting with cities and towns in the county regarding well capping. Toby Days with Alliance of Indiana Rural Water met with Nellie at the district office and discussed the possibility of holding a workshop later this summer/early fall. The workshop could actually incorporate an onsite well capping. The Alliance has funding for such a workshop. The board discussed this proposition and asked Nellie to look into it further and report back.
- **Other Topics:**
 - Judy Strock asked about the ARS Stakeholders meeting. Nellie reported her, Bill Ward, Derek Thompson and Kate Sanders all attended. They all agreed the meeting was the best one ARS has had regarding their CEAP project. The new director was present and was well received.
 - **Board Retreat:** Nellie reported she will check with Rieke Park on dates available and send out a doodle poll to see what will work best for the supervisors.
 - **March board meeting change:** Nellie asked the board for permission to move the March board meeting to Tuesday March 14th. The board agreed to the change.

NRCS Update: Derek Thompson, DC

- Derek reported he has received 36 EQIP applications which amounts to 15% of apps received in the state.

ISDA Update: Kate Sanders, RS

- Kate reported ISDA is providing mental health resource information. She handed out cards with various resources contact information.
- Kate reported the Governor has declared February 20-26 is Invasive Species week
- Kate gave the following updates from the Invasive Species Council:
 - The recent outbreak of Asian flu is the biggest ever
 - Fountain grass have been found in 4 pastures across the central part of the state
 - Spotted lantern fly has been found in Huntington, IN
 - SICIM conference is scheduled for June 29
 - Callery Pear has been officially banned for sale in the state of Ohio

NEXT MEETING: **Note date change**

- Tuesday February 14, 2023 @7:00pm

Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Watson seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Steve Watson _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____