

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from June 17, 2021 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Jeff Conrad, Vice Chair
Steve Provines

NRCS:

Derek Thompson, NRCS

ISDA:

Kate Sanders, RS

SWCD:

Nellie Peffley
Julie Knudson
Cameron Bell
Bill Ward

Absent:

Steve Watson, Supervisor
Judy Strock, Supervisor

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the June 17, 2021 board meeting to order at 5:31p.m. (This meeting was held in the Auburn Service Center conference room due to Covid restrictions being lifted)

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Chair Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the May 2021 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the May 20, 2021 minutes as written. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of claims 8484-8493 and deposits D682-D684. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8484 through 8493 and deposits 682-684 as presented. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Doc Coleman Landing:** Nellie Peffley reported she had contacted The Anderson's regarding the spraying and planting of soybeans to prepare the field for a pollinator plant. She spoke with Grey Meyer from The Anderson's who agreed with no cost to the district. The spraying was completed on 6/10/21 and planting completed week of 6/14/21.
 - Nellie and Bill Ward had quotes for a field mower and trimmer for the board to review. They informed the board the equipment could be used for the pollinator plot trails, the Hague Nature Area as well as any future Cisma areas. Bill also had a quote for a folding ramp that would be used to transport the mower in the district pick-up truck. After review and discussion the board agreed on the purchases. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the purchase of a field mower, trimmer and ramp. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **DCSP:** Nellie reported a press release was sent to the local newspaper and published advertising the well capping and garden soil testing practices. The board suggested informing the DeKalb Extension office and Master Gardener program about the soil testing cost share practice.
- **Hague Nature Area:** Nellie had provided a copy of the Concept of Land Use document that was written when the nature area was donated. The board discussed the district's vision is pretty much the same as when the document was written. Jeff Conrad mentioned he would like to inventory of tree species in the nature area. Nellie will contact Tom Crowe Forestry to get a quote on the request.

NEW BUSINESS

- **District Cost Share Program (DCSP):** Nellie Peffley reported two new applications have been received needing approval for participation.
 - R. Cook for septic replacement
 - C. Ables for septic replacement

The board reviewed the applications and paperwork from R. Cook and C. Ables. Jeff Conrad moved to approve participation for R. Cook and C. Ables in the District Cost Share Program. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- Nellie received two requests for payment. The completed applications received are from:
 - B. Farver for \$2500: septic replacement
 - L. Brown for \$300: invasive tree removal

The board reviewed both files. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$2500 to B. Farver and \$300 to L. Brown from District Cost Share funds. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **Finance:** Nellie brought the following for the board's review and/or approval:
 - Van: the district van is in need of new tires. Nellie suggested have a certain maximum amount for vehicle maintenance, whether van or pick-up, that the staff could have done without board approval. The board discussed this request. Jeff Conrad moved to allow maintenance for district vehicles up to \$1500 without board approval. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
 - County Budget: Nellie had spreadsheets with 2022 budget numbers available for the board to review. The spreadsheets included increasing the part-time position into full-time. After review and much discussion; Jeff Conrad moved to approve the 2022 County Budget with a 3.5% increase in salaries and operating expenses as well as increasing the part-time position to full-time. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. The budget is due to the Auditors office by July 15, 2021. Nellie also had copies of the full-time job description for the board to look over and let her know any edits, comments, etc.
 - Agronomy Field Day: Nellie informed the board the 2021 agronomy field day is scheduled for July 28th. She had a quote for tables, chairs, tents and port-a-jons from Taylor Rental in the amount of \$1886.80. She has obtained funds from CCSI in the amount of \$1000 and Steuben County SWCD has appropriated \$500 to be used for the event. Nellie told the board the district would pay the entire amount then invoice CCSI and Steuben SWCD for reimbursement. The district would be responsible for the remainder of \$386.80. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment to Taylor Rental of \$1886.80 with the district responsible for \$386.80 after reimbursement of \$1500 from CCSI and Steuben SWCD. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
 - Conservation Camp: Nellie and Julie Knudson brought up how the district has had a 50% cost share program for registration of DeKalb County children to attend the three Conservation Camps held in NE Indiana. They asked the board for approval to continue with the cost share program. Registration is \$10 per child. These are one day camps held in June at Par-Gil Learning Center in LaGrange County; July at Pokagon State Park in Steuben County; August at Camp Whitley in Whitley County. Jeff Conrad moved to approve 50% cost share for registration of DeKalb County children to attend the three Conservation Camps. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 - Urban Soil Health (IASWCD): Nellie had an invoice from IASWCD in the amount of \$1700 for Urban Soil Health Program. She and Julie reminded the board they committed \$1700 per year for five years towards the program. The amount helps with the salary of the Northeast Indiana Urban Soil Health Specialist. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$1700 to IASWCD for the Urban Soil Health Program. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **DeKalb County 4-H Fair Awards:** Nellie had an invoice from the DeKalb County 4-H Fair Council asking for the board's continuous support by purchasing the Wildlife award for \$30.00. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$30 to DeKalb County 4-H Fair Council of \$30 for the wildlife trophies. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **IDEA Fall Conference:** Nellie and Julie asked for permission from the board for all staff to attend the 2021 IDEA Fall Conference. It will be held in Muncie, IN October 5-7. Registration is \$130/person. Lodging comes to around \$250 for a 2 night stay. The board discussed the request. Jeff Conrad moved to approve all four staff members attend the IDEA Fall Conference October 5-7, 2021 and payment of \$130 each for registration along with lodging and any other travel expenses incurred. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Julie will register everyone before deadline of August 6 and secure lodging for the conference dates.
- **CWI Grant:** Nellie informed the board the CWI Grant application is due in September. There is a CWI Grant Update Networking Session scheduled for June 28 that she will be attending. She asked the board for approval to work on putting together a grant proposal to submit in September. Steve Provines moved to approve Nellie Peffley and staff to work on composing a CWI Grant proposal. Jeff Conrad seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Nellie will work on the grant. She is planning on updating the grant proposal from last year that did not get funded. She asked the board if they have any additional ideas for the grant to please let her know.
- **Key Program Areas:** Nothing to new to update this month.

OTHER UPDATES:

- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist**
 - Civil Rights Responsibilities for Partners Checklist: Derek asked the board to review the document and let him know if they have any questions. No one had any questions or comments. Chairperson Sarah Delbecq signed the document for the board.
 - Tile Camera: Derek reported the tile camera is getting a lot of attention. He has been asked to give a demonstration at the Agronomy Field Day July 28th and on September 8th he will give the same demo at Allen County SWCD's field day. He will also be giving a short demo at a field day in Adams County on July 1st.
 - Juneteenth: Derek reported the President made June 19th (Juneteenth) a national holiday today. Since the 19th is a Saturday all federal employees will actually get Friday June 18th off. So he will not be in the office on that day.
- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist**
 - Kate reported ISDA DSS Jennifer Thum has been promoted to Deputy Director of Division of Soil Conservation. ISDA is still deciding on her DSS and Team Leader responsibilities at this time.

NEXT MEETING:

- July 15, 2021 @ 7:00pm (Nellie P. and Cameron B. will not be attending due to vacation schedules)

OTHER ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

No other business was presented. Steve Provines moved to adjourn the meeting. Jeff Conrad seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 6:53pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Steve Watson _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____