

**DEKALB COUNTY SWCD**  
**Minutes from June 14, 2022 Board Meeting**

**Supervisors:**

Sarah Delbecq, Chair  
Jeff Conrad, Vice Chair  
Steve Provines, Supervisor  
Judy Strock, Supervisor

**NRCS:**

Derek Thompson, DC

**Guests:**

Elli Blaine  
Jamie Perry

**SWCD:**

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

**Absent:**

Steve Watson, Supervisor  
Justin Hoover, Associate Supervisor  
Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor  
Kate Sanders, RS

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the June 14, 2022 board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Guests: Urban/Small Farm Program**

After introductions guests Eli Blaine and Jaime Perry gave an update on the Urban/Small Farm Program. They explained the program which includes helping set up local working groups and provide technical support, education and presentations with a Regional Specialist. The program also provides some financial assistance for educational materials. Regional Specialist Jamie Perry informed the board of a couple nearby events scheduled and are welcomed to attend. June 27 is a Soil Health Field Day which will be focus on a small scale producer located in Markle, IN. September 20 is a field day on soil health located in Adams County and will be geared towards the Amish community. They both mentioned getting to know the county better with a few site visits and possibly a farm tour. Eli left contact information and told the board to let her or Jamie know if they can help in any way.

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

- **Minutes:** Chair Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the May 2022 minutes that had been provided to the board members. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the May 19, 2022 minutes as written. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of claims 8626-8634 and deposits D716-D724. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8626 through 8634 and deposits D716-D724 as presented. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **CWI Grant:** Nellie informed the board she had a meeting lined up with NE Solid Waste Management District, Steuben and LaGrange Counties to discuss the possibility of submitting a CWI grant application for a “recycling day”. However, NE Solid Waste Mgmt. cancelled the meeting. Nellie will reschedule and keep the board updated.
- **Community Foundation Grant:** Nellie reported the grant application is almost ready for submittal. She will have everything ready to go by the due date of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Nellie will keep the board updated.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Youth Conservation Camps:** Nellie reported the NE Indiana Conservation Camps are scheduled for June 23 in LaGrange, July 12 in Steuben and August 2 in Whitley Counties. She reminded the board in the past the District provided 50% cost share of the \$10 registration fee to any DeKalb County child attending any or all of the camps. She asked the board if they were still interested and OK with

providing the cost share. The board agreed they would continue to provide 50% cost share for any DeKalb County child attending NE Indiana Conservation Camps.

- **DCSP:**

- Nellie reported one application was received for participation from S. Bremer for invasive tree removal. The board reviewed the application. Jeff Conrad moved to approve S. Bremer's application for participation in the District Cost Share Program. Steve Provines seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- Nellie brought back an application from T. Lefevre that was approved for payment at last month's meeting. Mr. Lefevre brought in additional receipts after the meeting. Nellie asked if the board would pay the additional amount of \$123.26 from DCSP funds. After much discussion the board decided to not pay the additional amount since payment was already approved.
- Nellie had 2 applications that will expire within the next month. She asked for a 6 month extension for J&B Farms for a pollinator plot. The applicant was not able to seed due to the wet spring. Also, D. Burns for septic replacement which was not able to be installed due to weather. The board reviewed their files. Jeff Conrad moved to approve a six month extension to the contracts for J&B Farms and D. Burns. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **DCSP Soil Testing:** Nellie brought up the guidelines for the home garden soil testing portion of the cost share program does not fit with the testing procedures. The soil should not be held before taking to the lab. The board approved revising the guidelines. Nellie will update the guidelines and the board. Sarah Delbecq asked about setting an amount on how much the board would feel comfortable spending on soil testing. After much discussion the amount of \$500 was agreed upon. Jeff Conrad moved to approve allocating \$500 of District Cost Share Program funds for home garden soil testing. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**OTHER UPDATES:**

- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist:**

- Derek reported four of the seven CSP applications were funded
- Derek reported they are in a good position with CRP contracts. The flow of getting the information is much better than in the past.

- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist:** absent

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Thursday July 21, 2022 @7:00pm

Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Provines seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:18pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq \_\_\_\_\_

Judy Strock \_\_\_\_\_

Jeff Conrad \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Provines \_\_\_\_\_

Steve Watson \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_