

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from June 19, 2023 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Steve Provines, Supervisor
Jeff Conrad, Supervisor
Judy Strock, Vice Chair
Bruce Bell II, Associate Supervisor

SWCD:

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

Guest: Lois Mann, CCSI

Absent:

Justin Hoover, Supervisor
Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor
Derek Thompson, NRCS
Kate Sanders, ISDA

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the June 19, 2023 board meeting to order at 8:05am.

Guest: Lois Mann, Conservation Cropping Systems Initiative (CCSI) Northeast Program Manager introduced herself to the board members and explained what CCSI can do for the district. She brought a display of a cover crop plant that is available for districts to borrow for meetings, workshops, etc. Lois explained there are 6 different cover crop plant displays and to let her know if the board would like to borrow one or all six. She also informed the board CCSI is looking into potentially hiring 2 more agronomist which would have one in each quarter of the state.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the May 2023 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the May 16, 2023 minutes as written. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of May claims 8767-8781 and deposits D778-D786. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8767 through 8781 and deposits D778-D786 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Doc Coleman:** Nellie had pictures of before and after pictures of the tree planting on Doc Coleman Landing for the board to review.
- **Soil Judging:** Nellie reported she contacted DeKalb County teachers to see if they would be interested in participating in a soil judging contest and if so what dates would work. She said most responded they would be interested with September 8th as a good date. Nellie checked with ISDA and that date works for them too. She will let the schools know the contest will be held on September 8 with a rain date of September 22nd. Nellie will start looking for a site. Sarah suggested they may have spot available that is scheduled to have some tiling done with machinery already on site. Jeff Conrad mentioned the contest would need 4 pits. The board suggested inviting Hamilton and Angola High Schools also.
- **CWI Grant:** Nellie the grant guidelines have been issued. At the last meeting it was discussed maybe requesting funds to help with the Cedar Creek LARE project since the cost has increased tremendously. That idea is not feasibly possible at this time. The board agreed to not submit a CWI grant request this year but start to think of a project for 2024.
- **LARE:** Nellie reported 2 bids were received for the Cedar Creek project. The bids were quite a bit more than anticipated. Both companies had suggestions for some savings, but the amount was still more than what the grant and match would cover. Nellie had a meeting with our DNR LARE rep to discuss

the increase. She was told DNR may have more funds available but will get back with her. Nellie also met with Maumee River Basin Commission (MRBC) director. He thought the MRBC could possibly contribute \$100,000 towards the project, however would need board approval and the next meeting isn't until October. Nellie met with the City of Auburn Mayor who said the city is still very interested in the project. She will continue to work with DNR, MRBC, City of Auburn and County Commissioners on this and keep the board updated.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Financial:**

- **IDEA:** Nellie requested approval to attend and pay the registration fee of \$150 and travel expenses for all staff to attend the 2023 IDEA Fall Conference in October. The board asked questions regarding the conference. Jeff Conrad moved to approve paying the registration fee of \$150/person and travel expenses for all 4 staff members to attend the 2023 IDEA Fall Conference. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **DCSP:**

- Nellie received a request for payment of \$2500 from C. Arnett for a replacement septic. The board reviewed the file. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$2500 to C. Arnett using District Cost Share Program funds. Steve Provines seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- Nellie received an application for participation from S. Reynolds for replacement septic. She explained that Mr. Reynolds had applied back in 2019 but the contract expired. Julie contacted the Health Dept and was told the original septic permit has also expired and he needs to purchase a new one, but has not done so as of June 15th. After much discussion the board decided to not approve participation until the septic permit has been purchased and issued.

- **Well Capping Workshop:** Nellie reported the workshop is scheduled for September 20th at Rieke Park Lodge. DNR will give a presentation first at the lodge then will head over to Steve Provines property for an actual capping demonstration. Nellie has been working with Toby Days who found a contractor willing to give a demonstration on capping a well. The contractor is supposed to contact Steve Provines about his well. Steve reported he has not heard from the contractor as of the board meeting.

NRCS Update: Derek Thompson, DC not present due to federal holiday. No report given.

ISDA Update: Kate Sanders, RS absent. No report given.

NEXT MEETING:

- Wednesday July 19, 2023 @ 8:00am

Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:17am.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Justin Hoover _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____