

**DEKALB COUNTY SWCD**  
**Minutes from March 16, 2021 Board Meeting**

**Supervisors:**

Jeff Conrad, Chairman  
Sarah Delbecq, Vice Chair  
Steve Provines  
Steve Watson  
Judy Strock

**SWCD:**

Nellie Peffley  
Julie Knudson  
Cameron Bell  
Bill Ward

**ISDA:**

Kate Sanders, RS  
Jennifer Thum, DSS

**NRCS:**

Derek Thompson

**Chairman Jeff Conrad called the March 16, 2021 board meeting to order at 6:18p.m immediately following the annual meeting. *(This meeting was held at the County Courthouse Annex conference room due the Covid 19 pandemic and to easily comply with social distancing rules. In addition masks were made available.)***

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

- **Minutes:** Chairman Jeff Conrad asked if there were any additions or corrections to the February 2021 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the February 21, 2021 minutes as written. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Jeff Conrad asked for approval of claims 8451-8459 and deposits D675-D675E. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8451 through 8459 and deposits 675-675E as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Election of Officers:** An election of board officers took place for 2021. Judy Strock nominated Sarah Delbecq as chairman. No other nominations were made. Judy Strock moved to have Sarah Delbecq serve as DeKalb SWCD chair for 2021. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.  
Judy Strock nominated Jeff Conrad as Vice Chair. No other nominations were made. Judy Strock made motion to have Jeff Conrad serve as DeKalb SWCD Vice Chair for 2021. Steve P seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.  
Jeff Conrad moved to appoint Julie Knudson as DeKalb SWCD Fiscal Officer for 2021. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Allen Haynes contract for transition of position:** An invoice was received for A. Haynes' contract services in the amount of \$518. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$518 to A. Haynes for contract services. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Rain Barrel Workshop:** Julie Knudson reported a spring rain barrel workshop is scheduled for Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10am-12pm at the City of Auburn Pollution Control plant. There will be a limited number of barrels available so registration is required. Masks and social distancing will be required.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Website:** [www.dekalbcountyswcd.com](http://www.dekalbcountyswcd.com) Cameron Bell has set up a new website for the district. She showed the board members the pages and explained the options available. Cameron explained it cost \$20 for the domain name. The hosting cost is \$26/month or \$216/year which comes out to \$18/month. The board viewed the new website and was very impressed. Jeff Conrad made a motion to approve payment of \$216 for a year of hosting the website. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **District Cost Share Program:** Nellie Peffley explained that new applications received will now be added to the website for the board members to review prior to board meetings. The page for new applications received is password protected for the applicant's privacy. The website will also have a page with a blank application and guidelines available for the public to download.
- **Newspaper Advertisement:** KPC contacted the District regarding an upcoming Going Green campaign. They offered a ¼ page for \$200. The Going Green insert will run on April 15<sup>th</sup>. Cameron Bell has been working on a design for the ad focusing on the District's cost share program. The board discussed the proposal. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$200 for the Going Green campaign ad. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Zoom account:** Nellie Peffley explained she was originally going to request the district purchase a Zoom license for the year, especially since the staff now has to work primarily from home. However, she contacted the County IT Dept. They have purchased multiple Zoom licenses and has set aside one for the District to use.
- **Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant:** Nellie Peffley explained she has looked into possibly applying for a CWI grant to make the part time technician a full time position. She asked permission from the board to continue to pursue this. The board agreed and gave permission to pursue the grant for the full time position.
- **Key Program Areas:**
  - Cedar Creek: Nellie Peffley reported the Cedar Creek Collaboration group is meeting on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It will be a virtual meeting. If any of the board members are interested in attending they are to let Nellie know.
  - Cedar Creek LARE Grant: Nellie Peffley reported Flatland Resources surveyed the Eckhart Park section of the project last week. The work is moving forward.
  - Doc Coleman Landing: Nellie Peffley reported the staff had discussed making some improvements to the landing area. Possibly with pollinator plots and native tree planting. However, the District would need permission from the County Commissioners before any work or improvements could be made. The board discussed the many possibilities and approved pursuing the plan.
- **NRCS update:**
  - Derek Thompson reported he was notified that 25% of staff is allowed to work in office per day. This means our office is allowed 2 people per day. Derek thanked the staff for allowing him to work in the office every day. District staff is alternating by working 1 day in office and the rest of the week from home. Derek noted there was no end date given for this new restriction.
  - Derek reported the office doors remain closed. If you need to see someone in the office call first and we can meet in the parking lot.
  - Derek reported because of a snag in the software used for EQIP/CSP the deadlines have been extended. An actual deadline has not been given at this time.
  - Derek reported he plans to meet with the ARS Scientists regarding Phosphorus in the WLEB and the tile camera. He will update the board on his findings.

- **ISDA update:**

- Kate Sanders, RS, reminded everyone that new employees are required to watch the Preventing Sexual Harassment and Internal Controls videos. You can contact her and she will set you up.
- Kate informed the staff and supervisors to feel free to reach out to her for help with the CWI grant or any other help needed.
- Kate reported there is a WLEB meeting scheduled for March 24<sup>th</sup>

**NEXT MEETING:**

- April 15, 2021

**OTHER ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA**

No other business was presented. Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:26pm.

Chairman: Jeff Conrad\_\_\_\_\_

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

Sarah Delbecq\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Recorder\_\_\_\_\_

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