

**DEKALB COUNTY SWCD**  
**Minutes from May 20, 2021 Board Meeting**

**Supervisors:**

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

**SWCD:**

Nellie Peffley  
Julie Knudson  
Cameron Bell  
Bill Ward

**ISDA:**

Kate Sanders, RS

**Absent:**

Steve Watson, Supervisor  
Derek Thompson, NRCS

**Vice Chair Jeff Conrad called the April 15, 2021 board meeting to order at 7:00p.m. (*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:** Vice Chair Jeff Conrad asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April 2021 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Minutes are approved as sent.
- **Financial Report:** Jeff Conrad asked for approval of claims 8471-8483 and deposits D678-D681. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8471 through 8483 and deposits 678-681 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Rain Barrel Workshop:** Nellie Peffley reported the workshop was a success with 30 barrels completed
- **Doc Coleman Landing:** Nellie Peffley reported she and Bill Ward met with the Commissioners and they are on board with the pollinator plot planting.
  - Preparing the ground before planting of the plot was discussed at a recent staff meeting. NRCS suggests planting 2 seasons of soybeans before planting the pollinators.
  - The board discussed how and who could do the soybean planting. It was suggested to contact The Anderson's to see if they would be available to do the planting and spraying of the beans. Nellie will contact them and update the board.
  - Mowing the lawn area was also discussed. The area is approximately ½ acre. Bill Ward informed the board he had mowed the area with his own push mower and it took around 1 ½ hours to complete. However, his mower wasn't big enough for the thick grass. He suggested the district purchase a field trimmer/mower which would be much easier to use at the landing also could be used at the Hague Nature Area and potentially used for Cisma projects. Bill did a little research and found the trimmer/mower would cost around \$1500. The board discussed the request and asked Bill to bring back quotes to next month's meeting.
- **DCSP**
  - Nellie had copies of the guidelines for Home Garden Soil Testing. She asked the board if they had any questions or concerns. The board discussed the guidelines. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the DCSP Home Garden Soil Testing Guidelines. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
  - Nellie had copies of a brochure promoting DCSP Well Plugging for the board to review.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **District Cost Share Program (DCSP):** Nellie Peffley reported three new applications have been received needing approval for participation. A completed application requesting payment was also received. The applications received are:
  - City of Auburn for bank stabilization: participation
  - M.Sapp for septic replacement: participation
  - L. Brown for invasive tree removal/native planting: participation
  - T. Schiffli for invasive tree removal/native planting: payment request

The board reviewed the applications for participation and T. Schiffli's file for payment. Sarah Delbecq moved to approve applications from the City of Auburn, M. Sapp and L. Brown for participation in the District Cost Share Program and T. Schiffli's request for payment from DCSP funds. Jeff Conrad seconded the motion. Vote was 2 yay, 1 nay. Motion passed.

- **Finance Committee:** Nellie reported her, Julie Knudson and Supervisor Judy Strock met on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for June 7 at 10:30am.
- **Key Program Areas:**
  - **Hague Nature Area:** Nellie discussed some improvements needed for the area such as:
    - Update signs and steps
    - Convert cement foundation to something useful
    - Add cameras to dissuade vandalism
  - **Stewardship Plan:** Nellie had sent a copy of the Stewardship Plan for the Hague Nature Area to the board members to review. The board thought the plan was good however asked the staff to check if there are any stipulations on the use of or removal of anything on the property. It was also discussed to work on a more detailed 3 year management plan for the area.

## OTHER UPDATES:

- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist** (absent)
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- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist**
  - Kate reported the ISDA leadership thanks the District for completing the fall transect.
  - Kate reported Trevor has been name the new Director of ISDA Division of Soil Conservation.

## NEXT MEETING:

- June 17, 2021 @ 5:30 ( NE Indiana District Region Meeting following board meeting @ 7:00pm)

## 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 8:25pm.

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

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

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

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

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

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

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