

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from May 19, 2022 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Jeff Conrad, Vice Chair
Steve Provines, Supervisor
Steve Watson, Supervisor
Justin Hoover, Associate Supervisor

ISDA:

Kate Sanders, RS

NRCS:

Derek Thompson, DC

SWCD:

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

Absent:

Judy Strock, Supervisor
Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor
Bill Ward, Conservation Technician

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the May 19, 2022 board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Chair Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April 2022 minutes that had been provided to the board members. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the April 21, 2022 minutes as written. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of claims 8616-8625 and deposits D713-D715. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8616 through 8625 and deposits D713-D715 as presented. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Tree Sale:** Nellie reported the tree sale in conjunction with the Park Dept Spring into Nature event was successful despite the bad weather. 85 out of the 100 trees available were sold at the event. The remaining 15 trees were sold out of the office the following day. She would like to hold a sale again next year with different native species.
- **Boy Scout Mulching:** The Boy Scouts mulched the trail at The Hague Nature Area on May 2nd. The troop leader told Nellie that the Boy Scouts have been involved with the trail since its inception and looks forward to the work day. Nellie feels the Boy Scout Troop leader should be included or made aware of any changes the district might decide to make on the trails.
- **Ag Day:** Nellie reported the 3rd Grade Ag Day was held on May 10th. Her, Bill Ward and Cameron Bell gave a presentation on "Soil Pizza".
- **Backyard Conservation:** Nellie reported the Composting Basics & Soil Health workshop has been confirmed for Thursday August 18th from 5:00pm to 6:00pm. It will be held at Rieke Park Lodge. Brett Bloom from Dirt Wain will speak on composting basics and Jamie Perry from IASWCD Urban/Small Farms will speak on soil health.
- **River Friendly Farmer:** Nellie asked the board if they had any nominations for the award as the deadline for applications is June 8th. None were given.
- **Clean Water Indiana (CWI) Grant:** Nellie reported she has contacted Steuben and LaGrange County SWCDs about partnering on a grant for recycling. The grant would include hold recycling events in each county along with public education and outreach. She will also contact Solid Waste Management to help coordinate the events. Nellie asked the board if they were OK with her to go ahead and submit an application for this. The board agreed she should go ahead with the application. Nellie will keep the board updated on the process.

NEW BUSINESS

- **ISDA-Preventing Workplace Sexual Harassment Video:** Nellie informed the board ISDA requires all supervisors and staff watch a 10 minute video on preventing sexual harassment in the workplace. The video was played at the board meeting.
- **DCSP:**
 - Nellie reported one application was received for participation from K & P Gramling for a tree planting. The board reviewed the application. Jeff Conrad moved to approve K & P Gramling's application for participation in the District Cost Share Program. Steve Provines seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
 - Nellie had 2 applications requesting payment. They were from City of Auburn for streambank stabilization and T. Lefevre for a native grass planting. The board reviewed both files. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payments of \$2500 to the City of Auburn and \$620.28 to T. Levere from District Cost Share funds. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was 2 yay and 1 nay. Motion passed.
- **Community Foundation Grant:** Nellie reported the Community Foundation DeKalb County has grant funds available for agriculture education. She had looked into either purchasing an Enviroscape which demonstrates a watershed and how waterways can become polluted depending on what is put on the ground. It is a very visual demonstration for children and adults. She also looked into an augmented sand box which demonstrates topography and landscape. Nellie said the "sand box" is very expensive and may be more than what the grant offers. The board directed Nellie to submit a grant application for 2 Enviroscares. One would show the watershed without using conservation practices and one with BMPs. Nellie will keep board updated.

OTHER UPDATES:

- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist:**
 - Derek reported CSP sign up deadline is tomorrow. All applications received at this time have been submitted.
 - Derek reported there will be a Grazing Specialist and an Easement Specialist hired for the NE Indiana area. Also there will be another Planning Team Leader hired for the area.
 - Derek reported of the applications submitted for CRP General signup all but 1 have been funded.
- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist:**
 - Kate reported Summer District meetings are scheduled. There are 4 meetings with the same agenda. The closest to us would be in Huntington on August 31st.
 - Kate reminded everyone that if any promotional data is needed, such as transect, legislative, etc. to let her or DSS know.
 - Kate reported to let her or DSS know if we need any help with the CWI grant. They are available to help with the writing, submitting or reviewing.
 - Kate reported Cisma Conference is scheduled for August 17-20, 2022. Registration will begin soon.
 - Kate informed the board there is an ICP Invasives ID field day scheduled for June 23 in Allen County.
 - Kate reported the DNR is planning an aquatic research outreach program the end of June and first couple weeks of July. They will set up at various boat ramps in the region to educate boaters on invasive species.
 - Kate reported there is a Forage Workshop scheduled for June 21 at the Astral in Auburn. This is in cooperation with ISDA, Purdue Extension and the District. PARP credits will be available.

OTHER ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

- Nellie asked the board if it would be OK to move board meetings to Tuesday in June and September. The dates would be Tuesday June 14 and Tuesday September 13. The board agreed to changing the board meeting dates in June and September. Time will be the same 7:00pm.

NEXT MEETING:

- Tuesday June 14, 2022 @7:00pm

Steve Watson moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Provines seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:02pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Steve Watson _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____