



# DeKalb County SOIL & WATER Conservation District

## BOARD MEETING

Monday, June 19, 2023 @ 8:00 a.m.

DeKalb County SWCD Office  
942 W 15<sup>th</sup> Street, Auburn, IN 46706

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### AGENDA

- I. Welcome, Introductions
- II. General Business
  - Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting (*action*)
  - Financial Report (*information/action*)
    - i) Claims: 8767 – 8781
    - ii) Deposits: D778 – 786
- III. Old Business
  - Doc Coleman Landing (*update*)
  - Soil Judging (*discussion*)
    - Need to find location – bring ideas!
  - CWI – Grant (*information*)
    - Guidelines came out – grant will be due September 8, 2023
  - LARE (*update*)
- IV. New Business
  - Financial
    - i) IDEA – Fall Conference (October 6-8, 2023) Registration \$150
  - DCSP
    - i) Arnett, Charles – Septic Replacement – Approval for Payment (*action*)
    - ii) Renolds, Steven – Septic Replacement – Approval for Participation (*action*)
  - Well Capping Workshop – September 20, 2023 (*information*)
  - NRCS update
  - ISDA update
- Next Meeting
  - i) Board Meeting – July 19, 2023
- Adjournment

**DEKALB COUNTY SWCD**  
**Minutes from May 16, 2023 Board Meeting**

**Supervisors:**

Sarah Delbecq, Chair  
Steve Provines, Supervisor  
Jeff Conrad, Supervisor  
Bruce Bell II, Associate Supervisor  
Justin Hoover, Supervisor

**Absent:**

Judy Strock, Vice Chair  
Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor

**SWCD:**

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

**ISDA:** Kate Sanders, RS

**NRCS:** Derek Thompson, DC

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the May 16, 2023 board meeting to order at 8:00am.

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

- **Minutes:** Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the April 2023 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Justin Hoover moved to approve the April 18, 2023 minutes as written. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of April claims 8761-8766 and deposits D770-D777. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Justin Hoover moved to approve claims 8761 through 8766 and deposits D770-D777 as presented. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Rain Barrel Workshop:** Nellie reported 17 barrels were constructed. There was a waiting list to attend and hope to hold another workshop in the fall.
- **Tree Sale:** Nellie reported there was a good turnout for the sale. Most trees were sold day of sale. Those that were not ended up being sold out of office. District ended up earning a little more than \$900 from sale.
- **Doc Coleman:** Nellie reported 35 trees were planted at the launch site. Things are moving along.
- **Soil Judging:** Nellie reported she has contacted local High School FFA teachers. She said some are interested in attending. Nellie is looking to schedule a contest in September. Dave LaForge is willing to help out. He did mention there are other area contests. Nellie will try to schedule around them. She will keep the board updated.
- **CWI Grant:** Nellie asked if any of the board members had an idea for a CWI grant. Nellie suggested combining CWI with a LARE grant for Cedar Creek stabilization project. The project cost has increased tremendously. She has reached out to DNR to see if there was any way to increase the LARE grant amount. She was told there may be more funds available but won't know for sure until at least June. The timing could be a problem as the LARE grant expires in December 2024. The board discussed the issue. After much discussion the board decided to wait for DNR's response for added funding; if that fall through to go ahead and apply for CWI grant.
- **Cedar Creek Clean-up:** Nellie informed the board the Cedar Creek clean-up is scheduled for Saturday August 26<sup>th</sup>. The staff is working on contacting potential vendors.
- **No-till Drill:** Nellie reported her and Bill Ward looked into a cover for the drill. Nellie also reached out to the Highway Dept. for a space to store the drill at the county farm. She was told after the Highway Dept. moves to their new location, there would be room at the farm. Nellie brought up the issue with the County Commissioners who said they would contact the Highway Dept. and get back with her. Nellie is waiting to hear back and will let board know.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Financial:**

- **IASWCD dues:** Nellie reported an invoice and annual report was received by IASWCD. The board reviewed the invoice for \$2000 and report. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$2000 to IASWCD for annual dues. Justin Hoover seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **4-Awards:** Nellie received a request/invoice from the DeKalb County 4-H Council to purchase wildlife awards totaling \$45. These are awards the district has purchased in the past. The board discussed the request/invoice. Jeff Conrad moved to purchase the wildlife awards for DeKalb County 4-H. Justin Hoover seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **County Budget:** Nellie reported she worked up a few numbers to submit to the county for 2024 budget based on inflation. She suggested asking for a 7% increase. The board discussed the budget request and finally decided on the 7% increase. Jeff Conrad moved to submit the 2024 county budget request with the 7% increase. Justin Hoover seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Flag Price:** Nellie requested the flags sold out of the district office be increase to \$15 for 100 flags and \$5 for 25 flags. The initial cost of the flags has increased and this would help cover. Jeff Conrad moved to approve increasing the cost of flags to \$15/100 and \$5/25. Justin Hoover seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **DCSP:**
  - Nellie received a request for payment from C. Jack for a pollinator plot and tree planting. The total cost for DCSP is \$762.75. She also received a request from K. Gramling for a tree planting. Total cost for DCSP is \$318.80. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment to C. Jack for \$762.75 and K. Gramling for \$318.80 using District Cost Share Program (DCSP) funds. Steve Provines seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Urban Soil Health Program:** Nellie reported she met with Jamie Perry from the Urban Soil Health Program along with Steuben SWCD regarding forming a local working group. There would be no cost involved from the districts. There are funds available through the Urban Soil program for technical assistance. The board discussed the request and gave their approval to pursue the plan.
- **ARS-Grant:** Nellie reported the district was approached by the new director of USDA-ARS (Agriculture Research Service). He wanted to let the district and NRCS know that they are pursuing a grant for a project here in DeKalb County. He went over the project and is getting ready to submit their proposal. He just wanted to keep both informed and to ask for possible assistance in the future.

### NRCS Update: Derek Thompson, DC

- Derek asked if there were any questions from the board regarding the annual civil rights form that was included in their meeting packet. Since there were no questions he asked the board chair to sign the form.
- Derek reported there was EQIP/CSP sign up using IRA funds but deadline has passed. He said the state office will look at and consider applications already received during the general sign-up but not accepted due to lack of funding.

### ISDA Update: Kate Sanders, RS

- Kate reported Don Lamb is the new director of the agency. He held a meet and greet recently with staff.
- Kate reported the Deputy Director of Soil Conservation Jordan Seger is leaving to pursue farming full time.

### Other Items Not on Agenda:

- Bill Ward wished to thank Derek Thompson for going with and picking up trees using his personal truck and livestock trailer.

**NEXT MEETING: Note date & time change**

- Nellie requested the June meeting be moved to Monday June 19<sup>th</sup> at 8am due to staffing issues. The board agreed.
- Monday June 19, 2023 @ 8:00am

Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Provines seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:21am.

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

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

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

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

Justin Hoover \_\_\_\_\_

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

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

UPCOMING EVENTS / DATES TO REMEMBER	
<b>JUNE 5, 2023</b>	LARE – OPENING BIDS
<b>JUNE 19, 2023</b>	SWCD BOARD MEETING
<b>JUNE 20, 2023</b>	LAGRANGE CONSERVATION CAMP
<b>JUNE 29, 2023</b>	INDIANA INVASIVE SPECIES CONFERENCE - HAMILTON

#### Strategic Focus Areas

- Agriculture
- Nature
- Urban

#### Key Program Areas

- **Cedar Creek** (Ag + Nature + Urban)
  - LARE grant
    - Estimate in design report was: \$192,254.32. Estimate from Flatland Resources on 4/24/23 was \$289,431.00. We received two bids:
      - Flatland Resources = \$340,013.33 with potential \$53,179.65 cost savings (\$286,833.68)
      - The Stanger Group, Inc. = \$312,502.00 with potential \$45,000 cost savings (\$267,502.00)
    - The LARE grant agreement commenced on August 9, 2022 and remains in effect through December 31, 2024.
    - Several meeting coming up to discuss bids and funding:
      - Meeting with DNR & City of Auburn on 6/13/23
      - Meeting with MRBC on 6/15/23
      - Meeting with City of Auburn on 6/16/23
  - Doc Coleman Landing
    - Doc Coleman was seeded on Tuesday, December 20, 2022. Trees were planted on May 5, 2023.
- **District Cost Share Program** (Ag + Nature + Urban)

Name	Participation Approved	Date Expires	Payment Approved	DCSP Practice	Max Amount	Actual Amount
Gramling, Kevin & Pam	5/19/22	5/19/23	Closed	Tree Planting	\$450	\$318.80
Jack, Casey	7/21/22	7/21/23	Closed	Pollinator Planting / Windbreak	\$762.75	\$762.75
Springer, Peggy	2/20/23	N/A	Closed	Garden Soil Testing	\$18.75	\$18.75
A&L Labs	4/1/23	N/A	Closed	Garden Soil Testing	\$63.75	\$63.75
Rensch, Judy	4/22/23	N/A	Closed	Garden Soil Testing	\$56.25	\$56.25
Arnett, Charles	7/21/22	7/21/23	Open	Septic Replacement	\$2,500	\$2,500

Name	Participation Approved	Date Expires	Payment Approved	DCSP Practice	Max Amount	Actual Amount
Diehl, Mary	9/13/22	9/13/23	Open	Pollinator Planting	\$2,500	TBD
Duke, Virgil & Regina	9/13/22	9/13/23	Open	Streambank Stabilization	\$2,500	TBD
<b>TOTAL</b>					<b>\$8,851.50</b>	<b>\$3,720.30</b>

LEGEND		
EXPIRED APPLICATION	PENDING BOARD APPROVAL	PAYMENT MADE

<b>TOTAL AMOUNT IN DCSP as of 5/31/23</b>	<b>= \$24,292.42</b>
<b>\$20,000 (2023 budget) - \$8,851.50 (open DCSP applications approved)</b>	<b>= \$11,148.50 (remaining)</b>

- **Hague Nature Area (Nature)**
  - We received the Community Foundation Grant of \$4,040.00 for Outdoor Community Education. The grant will allow us to purchase a new outdoor message center (to be at start of trail), to replace the signs along the trail, purchase a smaller outdoor message center, and purchase sound equipment and projector screen.
- **Soil Health (Ag)**
  - Equipment rental
    - Drill – 2023

NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	ACRES	DELIVERY	PICK UP	PRACTICE	DATE PAID
Crow, Tom	4/6/23	\$300	30	\$15	\$15	Cover Crops	4/19/23
Conrad, Jeff	4/13/23	\$50	5	\$15	\$15	Filterstrip	4/18/23
Phillips, Brian	4/14/23	\$60	6	\$15	N/A	Hay	5/2/23
Fuller, Rex	5/19/23	\$60	6	\$15	N/A	Hay	5/30/23
Ellert, Floyd	5/30/23	\$50	3	N/A	N/A	Disc	6/7/23
Keith, Butcher	6/3/23	\$100	3	\$50	\$50	Food Plot	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$620</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>\$110</b>	<b>\$80</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

- Tree planter – 2023

NAME	DATE	AMOUNT	QUANTITY	DELIVERY	PICK UP	DATE PAID
England, Bruce	4/15/23	\$372	3,100	\$15	\$15	4/25/23
Lengacher, Levi	4/26/23	\$84	700	N/A	N/A	5/19/23
Carpenter, Phil	4/29/23	\$50	100	\$15	N/A	5/15/23
Kneller, Kelly	4/30/23	\$50	300	N/A	N/A	5/10/23
Freudenberger, Justin	5/15/23	\$50	200	N/A	N/A	
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>\$606</b>	<b>4,400</b>	<b>\$30</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<b>-</b>

- **Conservation Where You Live (Urban)**
  - Construction Stormwater Activities
    - Inspection Days & Meetings Attended

- 5/3 MS4 inspections days
- 5/10 County inspection days
- 5/17 ETJ inspections days
- CSGP Activities – 5/1/2023 thru 5/31/2023
  - Total DeKalb County Projects: **66**
  - Inspected MS4 projects: **9**
  - Inspected ETJ project: **5**
  - Inspected County projects: **7**
  - Complaints: **0**
  - Projects closed: **3**
  - SWPPP Plan reviews: **0**
  - Permit Applications reviewed for compliance: **52**
- Backyard conservation
  - Urban Soil Health Program – Met with Steuben County & IASWCD Jamie Perry to discuss local working group on 5/4/23. Talking with Steuben County on 6/20/23 to discuss next steps.

#### **Supporting Functions**

- **Budget/Finance/Grants**
  - LARE Grant – We received funding for construction of Eckhart Park Project for FY 2022-2023 in a letter dated 7/22/22. The grant will cover 80% of the cost, not to exceed a total of \$100,000.
  - Community Foundation – Received \$4,040.00 for Outdoor Community Education
- **Education**
  - Soil Judging – Still working on day for practice round. Will likely be either September 8 or September 22, 2023.
- **Promotion**
  - Communications (website, social media, newspaper, newsletter, etc.)
    - Website [www.dekalbcountyswcd.com](http://www.dekalbcountyswcd.com)
    - If anyone has any topics or ideas for the newsletter please let us know.
  - Event planning
    - Agronomy Field Day – August 2, 2023
    - Cedar Creek Cleanup – August 26, 2023
    - Soil Judging – September 8 or September 22, 2023
    - Well Capping Workshop – September 20, 2023
- **State/Regional/Local efforts**
  - Clean Water Indiana (CWI) – Indiana General Assembly increased appropriation to \$6 million in each of the next two fiscal years (2023-24 and 2024-25).
  - IASWCD – Strategic Planning – Completed survey to help the IASWCD Board of Directors in developing a strategic plan that will guide the Association's priorities for the next 3-5 years.





- ISDA
  - Summer Summit Meeting for NNE Region is scheduled for September 7, 2023 – LaGrange
  - CWI grant guidelines for the 2024 CWI grant cycle are now available.

#### **Staff Highlights**

- **Staff Weekly Meetings:** 5/23/23, 5/30/23, 6/5/23, 6/12/23
  - Weekly Schedules
  - Cedar Creek Cleanup
  - Community Foundation Grant – HNA signs/equipment
  - Business Cards
  - Native Plant Sale – Pick-Up
  - LARE
  - Health Insurance
  - Drill
- **Other staff programs/trainings in June:**
  - 6/5/23: Commissioners Meeting – LARE
  - 6/5/23: Native Plant Sale Pick-Up
  - 6/12/23: Pollinator Trainings for ICP Employees – virtual
  - 6/13/23: Urban Soil Health Program Updates – virtual
  - 6/13/23: Meeting with DNR & City of Auburn – LARE Bids
  - 6/13/23: Hiking Club
  - 6/14/23: Soil Talk – Waterloo Public Library
  - 6/15/23: Meeting with Commissioner, MRBC, & Cedar Creek Drainage Board – LARE
  - 6/15/23: CWI Info Meeting – virtual
  - 6/16/23: Meeting with City of Auburn – LARE
  - 6/19/23: Health Plan Enrollment Meetings
  - 6/20/23: LaGrange Conservation Camp
  - 6/27/23: Cedar Creek Drainage Board Meeting – LARE
  - 6/29/23: Indiana Invasive Species Conference – Hamilton County Fairgrounds