

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from November 19, 2021 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Jeff Conrad, Vice Chair
Steve Provines, Supervisor
Steve Watson, Supervisor

SWCD:

Nellie Peffley
Julie Knudson
Bill Ward
Cameron Bell

NRCS:

Derek Thompson

Guest:

Justin Hoover

ISDA:

Kate Sanders, RS

Absent:

Judy Strock, Supervisor

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the November 19, 2021 board meeting to order at 7:08p.m

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Chair Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October 2021 minutes that had been provided to the board members. Steve Provines asked that during the vote for a motion to include anyone who abstains. He did abstain from voting on approval of the YMCA participating in the District Cost Share Program. Julie Knudson will start to include abstaining in the vote count. She did ask if someone does not vote on a motion to please let her know for an accurate count. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the October 21, 2021 minutes as written with the above correction. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of claims 8540-8554 and deposits D696E-D697. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8540 through 8554 and deposits 696E-697 as presented. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Guest: Nellie Peffley asked everyone to introduce themselves to guest Justin Hoover. Justin introduced himself and gave a short background. He thanked the board for inviting him to sit in on the meeting and informed them he is very interested in participating with the district.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Weed Wrangle:** Nellie reported the weed wrangle held at Hague Nature Area on November 13th was a success despite the cold, rain and snowy weather. 15 people including staff were present. The group focused on removing asian bush honeysuckle and made a significant difference in the area.
- **Audit:** SBOA has sent an invoice for the resent audit. The charge is way over what other counties have been charged. Nellie has tried to contact SBOA to discuss the amount. She has left 2 messages and waiting to hear back. She will keep the board updated on what she finds out.
- **Rule 5 Review Fee:** Nellie has a call into our County Council liaison. She is waiting to hear back from him and will update the board when she can.
- **Policies:** The board decided to table this. They will discuss at a future meeting.
- **Drill Storage:** The District drill is still currently being stored outside of the County Farm's building. Nellie asked Jeff Conrad if he still has a place to store the drill for the winter months. Jeff does. He asked Bill to check out the place and see if it will work. Bill will report back.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Employee salaries:** The board and Nellie met in an executive session to discuss the County Council's wage ordinance that was adopted after the district submitted their 2022 budget. The ordinance increases the wages more than the original submittal. Jeff Conrad moves to approve the increase in employee wages for the 2022 budget to equal the approved County salary ordinance. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **2022 Budget:** Nellie had prepared a spreadsheet with a proposed internal budget for 2022. The spreadsheet was presented on PowerPoint. She showed income and expense account totals for 2019, 2020 and 2021 up to October 31st. There are some accounts that are no longer used, but have funds in them. (such as contribution agreements, etc.) Nellie would like to move the funds and close out those accounts. It will make the balance sheet easier to navigate. The board discussed Nellie's presentation and request to close out the inactive accounts. Jeff Conrad moved to move the inactive accounts with funds totaling \$29,066.70 to the general District Checking account & transfer funds to the District Cost Share Program fund as needed. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **District Cost Share Program (DCSP):** Nellie reported one new application for participation was received from Lakewood Park School for a tree planting. The board reviewed the application and Bill Ward explained the planting. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the application from Lakewood Park School for participation in DCSP. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Nellie reported the YMCA native tree planting project is complete and is asking for payment approval. The board reviewed the file. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$2500 to YMCA for a tree planting using DCSP funds. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Annual Conference:** Nellie reported all registrations for the IASWCD annual conference have been made. A delegate representing DeKalb SWCD needs to be submitted for the business meeting. Steve Watson volunteered for the delegate position. Sarah Delbecq will be the alternate. There is one resolution that will be voted on at the business meeting. Nellie had a copy of the resolution for the board to review. The board will advise how the district will vote at the next board meeting.
- **Annual Meeting:** Nellie reported the annual meeting will be held on March 15th with the most cost effective venue being Country Heritage. The time will be from 5pm-6pm with light appetizers provided. The March 2022 board meeting will be held immediately following the annual meeting.
 - Nellie informed the board the deadlines for the election ballot is December 1, 2021. Elected supervisor Steve Provines term will expire in 2022. The Nomination Committee will let Julie Knudson know the names for the election ballot by the deadline.
- **Newsletter:** Nellie reported Cameron Bell has a link to sign up for the newsletter on the district website: www.dekalbcountyswcd.com As of right now the newsletter will only be in electronic form.

OTHER UPDATES:

- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist:**
 - **CSP payments:** Derek reported he is continuing to work on CSP payments.
 - **EQIP:** Derek reported the deadline for submitting an EQIP application is mid-December. He also reported there are still no details for the 2022 EQIP. However, there was a webinar explaining some significant changes coming. He will keep the board updated.
 - **USDA office:** Derek reported there are still no changes to the office doors being locked due to the pandemic.
- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist:**
 - Kate reminded the board of the nominees for election form must be submitted by December 1st and annual meeting information is due January 1st.
 - Kate reported the ISDA soil sampling grant has expanded to include DeKalb County and to please let her know if anyone is interested in the program.

OTHER ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

- No other business was presented.

NEXT MEETING:

- Tuesday December 16 @ 7:00pm

Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Watson seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:16pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Steve Watson _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____