

**DEKALB COUNTY SWCD**  
**Minutes from November 17, 2022 Board Meeting**

**Supervisors:**

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

**NRCS:**

Derek Thompson, DC

**Guest:**

Bruce Bell, II

**SWCD:**

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

**ISDA:**

Kate Sanders, ISDA

**Absent:**

Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the November 17, 2022 board meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Sarah Delbecq introduced Bruce Bell, II who was attending the meeting as he is considering running for the open supervisor election. Everyone introduced themselves and welcomed Bruce.

**DISTRICT BUSINESS**

- **Minutes:** Sarah Delbecq, Chair asked if there were any additions or corrections to the October 2022 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the October 20, 2023 minutes as written. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of October claims 8685-8699 and deposits D745-D749. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8685 through 8699 and deposits D745-D749 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **CWI Grant:** Nellie informed the board the district application was not funded. The CWI Grant committee did not feel the recycling aspect of proposal met the goals of the State Soil Conservation Board's (SSCB) business plan.
- **Annual Meeting:** Nellie asked the board to set a date and venue for the annual meeting to be held in March 2023. Julie Knudson had information on the Exhibit Hall and Midaugh Hall located at the DeKalb County Fairgrounds. The board discussed both places and asked Julie to do further research and bring back to next meeting. Nellie also asked about a speaker. She suggested contacting someone to speak on the Douglas Woods/Fish Creek project. After discussing the suggestion the board agreed and asked Nellie to pursue.
- **2023 County Budget:** Nellie informed the board she and Julie Knudson attended the county council meeting where they were to approve the salary ordinance. The council had decided the salary wages will stay the same at 1% for hourly and 3% for salary employees. Operating expenses will also stay at 5%. The council is now looking into longevity pay to help with the increase in insurance premiums. Nellie had been informed that the possibility of updating our job descriptions could move the positions into a higher category and increase the "points" needed for higher pay. She will work on the job descriptions and hope to have them done for the County's 2024 budget request.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **Supervisor Election Ballot:** Nellie reported the supervisor election ballot is due to the state by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Sarah Delbecq, Chair of the nomination committee reported she will have names and information to Julie Knudson by the deadline.
- **2023 IASWCD Annual Conference:** Nellie reported the staff along with supervisors Judy Strock and Steve Provines are registered for the conference. The early bird deadline has been pushed back to November 23<sup>rd</sup>. If any other supervisor or associate would like to attend let her know ASAP and will get them registered. Nellie informed the board the conference is January 8-10 although we will be heading down on Monday January 9<sup>th</sup>. Nellie also informed the board a delegate and alternate will need to be submitted by December 30. She had copies of the four resolutions for the board to review and will decide on how to vote at next board meeting.
- **DCSP:**
  - Nellie reported she received 2 payment requests. The first was from S. Bremer for his invasive tree removal requesting \$225. The second from D. Muckenfuss for invasive tree removal and native planting requesting \$600. The board reviewed both files. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$225 to S. Bremer and \$600 to D. Muckenfuss from District Cost Share funds. Steve Provines seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **2023 Plan of Work/Business Plan:** Nellie had draft copies of the 2023 plan of work for the board to review. She asked them to look it over and get back with her with any comments or suggestions by December 9<sup>th</sup>. She then brought up that the district's three year business plan expires and needs to be updated in January 2023. She had copies of the current plan for the board to review and make notes of any changes they may like to see. The board decided they would prefer to go over and discuss any changes at a business retreat. Nellie and staff will look into a venue and date then let the board know.

## NRCS Update: Derek Thompson, DC

- Derek informed the board EQIP application deadline is December 16
- Derek along with SWCD are planning a cover crop discussion group on December 7 at Rieke Park. Invitations will go out next week.
- Derek reported the NRCS state office will conduct training on December 9 for EQIP
- Derek has been approved to attend the 2023 IASWCD Annual Conference

## ISDA Update: Kate Sanders, RS

- Kate reported she has been taking monthly walks through the Hague Nature Area (HNA) and has seen a positive transformation. She was able to see the improvements being made with the removal of invasive species. Kate recommended the board members walk through sometime or get with Bill Ward and take a tour to see the progress being made. Judy Strock suggested creating a video diary of the work being done and posting it on our website.
- Kate informed the board there are two Resource Specialist (RS) positions open. One in Kokomo (NW) and one in Huntington (NE). She asked the board to let anyone they know that might be interested.
- Kate reported she has heard from the state office that the tillage transect data has been requested from someone at Indiana University and also someone from the United Kingdom.
- Kate informed the board and staff that RCPP hours need to be updated. She will get with staff for the information.

## NEXT MEETING:

- Thursday December 15, 2022 @7:00pm

Jeff Conrad moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Watson seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:09pm.

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

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

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

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

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

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

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