

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from October 21, 2021 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Jeff Conrad, Vice Chair
Judy Strock, via tele-conf
Steve Provines, Supervisor
Steve Watson, Supervisor

SWCD:

Nellie Peffley
Julie Knudson
Bill Ward
Cameron Bell

NRCS:

Derek Thompson

Absent:

Kate Sanders, ISDA

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the October 21, 2021 board meeting to order at 6:59p.m

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Chair Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September 2021 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the September 14, 2021 minutes as written. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of claims 8532-8539 and deposits D691-D695. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8532 through 8539 and deposits 691-695 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **IDEA Fall Conference:** Nellie reported the sessions at IDEA Fall Conference were very good as well as good opportunity to meet other district employees from around the state.
- **Rain Barrel Workshop:** Nellie reported a total of 16 barrels were constructed. Some who had signed up did not turn up, therefore Julie will start to send out reminders to those who RSVP'd and ask if they are not able to attend after all to let her know so she can contact the waiting list.
- **Drill Storage:** The District drill is still currently being stored outside of the County Farm's building. Nellie and Bill Ward continue to work on the situation. They will keep the board updated.
- **Weed Wrangle:** Nellie reported a Weed Wrangle has been scheduled for Saturday November 13 from 9:00am to 11:30am. Dugan Julian will first speak on invasive management then attendees will move onto helping eradicate invasives in the Hague Nature Area.
- **Audit:** Nellie reported the audit has concluded with an exit interview on September 30th. The auditor did not find anything amiss and district should be receiving an invoice soon.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Finance:**
 - **NACD Dues:** Nellie presented an invoice for \$775 from NACD for 2022 dues. In the past the district has paid \$775 which is NACD gold level. The board discussed the invoice. Jeff Conrad moved to pay NACD \$775 for 2022 dues at gold level. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
 - **IASWCD Annual Conf:** Nellie informed the board the Annual Conference is scheduled for January 23-25 in Indianapolis. Registration is now available with early bird rates of \$330/person through November 15. Nellie asked if any supervisors are interested in attending to let her know ASAP. Judy Strock, Sarah Delbecq and Steve Watson said they would like to attend. Jeff Conrad moved to pay registration, lodging and other travel costs for 3 supervisors and 4 staff to attend the IASWCD annual conference January 23-25, 2022. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **Grassland for Gamebirds:** Nellie explained this program is provided by DNR working with NRCS. DNR is looking for support from the district. The district has supported the program in the past with in-kind dollars. The board discussed the request and agreed to support Grassland for Gamebirds again. A letter of support was written and just needed Chairperson Sarah Delbecq's signature.
- **District Cost Share Program (DCSP):** Nellie reported she had 3 applications for participation:
 - C. White for a pollinator & invasive tree removal
 - Eckhart Library for invasive tree removal
 - The board reviewed the above applications. Jeff Conrad moved to approve C. White and Eckhart Library applications for participation in DCSP. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
 - YMCA/ B. Krafft submitted an application to remove 17 invasive pear trees. After much discussion it was decided to allow them to apply under the conservation practice of tree planting. This will allow more funds available to plant native trees however with the stipulation that the district can promote or educate as the project progresses. Jeff Conrad moves to approve the application from YMCA/B. Krafft for a tree planting in DCSP for a total of \$2500 with an educational stipulation, details to be worked out later. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was 4 yays and 1 nay. Motion passed.

Nellie had 2 applications that were completed and requesting approval for payment:

- L. Koble for septic replacement. The board reviewed the file. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$2500 to L. Koble for septic replacement using DCSP funds. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- C. Jack for a windbreak. The board reviewed the file. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$2148.12 to C. Jack for a windbreak using DCSP funds. Steve Watson seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

Nellie asked the board for approval to transfer funds from NRCS Contribution Agreements to DCSP. There are not sufficient funds available to cover the approved applications at this time. This would also close out the NRCS account line since the projects are complete. The board discussed the request. It was decided to transfer from the NRCS Contribution PSS Agreement to DCSP to cover board approved payments for the remainder of 2021.

- **Annual Meeting:** Nellie asked the board to begin thinking about the annual meeting scheduled for March 15, 2022. She reported her and Julie have been looking a potential venues around the County. They will keep the board updated as to what they have found.
 - Nellie informed the board the deadlines for election nomination committee and appointed supervisor is November 1, 2021. Appointed supervisor, Judy Strock's term will be up in 2022. Chairperson Sarah Delbecq will let Nellie know if Judy will be re-appointed the following week and before the deadline. Ms. Delbecq then appointed herself, Jeff Conrad and Steve Watson to the nomination committee. Julie will submit the information into Conservation Link.
- **Policies:** Nellie put together a policy manual to have the board review. If they have any suggestions or comments to please let her know. Nellie would like to have the policy manual approved by the end of the year.
- **Rule 5:** Nellie reported her and Cameron Bell have been working on putting together a fee structure for reviewing Rule 5 Stormwater Pollution Control applications submitted for construction projects in the County. They had a chart with potential fees for the board to review. The board looked over the chart and discussed the idea. The board suggested talking with the County Council liaison and Commissioners then bring back to the board their comments or concerns. Nellie and Cameron would like to start if possible and approved by the first of the year.

OTHER UPDATES:

- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist:**

- **USDA Fiscal Year:** Derek reported their 2022 fiscal year has begun. They have not received any new guidelines to date.
- **CSP payments:** Derek reported payments on existing CSP contracts are current being made.
- **Continuing Resolution:** Derek reported the continuing resolutions is in effect until December 3rd. Will keep everyone updated as decisions are made.
- **D. Hines retirement:** Derek reported Dave Hines from the area office is retiring November 20th. Derek said he will be greatly missed.

- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist:** absent no report given

OTHER ITEMS NOT ON AGENDA

- No other business was presented.

NEXT MEETING:

- Tuesday November 18 @ 7:00pm

Steve Provines moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Watson seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:41pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Steve Watson _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____