

**DEKALB COUNTY SWCD**  
**Minutes from October 18, 2023 Board Meeting**

**Supervisors:**

Sarah Delbecq, Chair  
Judy Strock, Vice Chair  
Steve Provines, Supervisor  
Jeff Conrad, Supervisor

**SWCD:**

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

**NRCS:**

Derek Thompson, District Conservationist

**ISDA:**

Kate Sanders, RS

**Guest:**

Mike Watson, County Commissioner

**Absent:**

Justin Hoover, Supervisor  
Bruce Bell II, Associate Supervisor  
Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the October 18, 2023 board meeting to order at 8:03am.

**WELCOME**

- County Commissioner Mike Watson was introduced. Everyone in attendance then introduced themselves and what agency and position they hold.

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

- **Minutes:** Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the September 2023 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Judy Strock moved to approve the September 20, 2023 minutes as written. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of September claims 8808-8818 and deposits D798-D802. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Judy Strock moved to approve claims 8808 through 8818 and deposits D798-D802 as presented. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **LARE:** Nellie reported the project is moving along. She attended the Maumee River Basin Commission (MRBC) meeting where they approved contributing up to \$100,000 towards the project. Nellie wrote and submitted a Clean Water Indiana (CWI) for an additional \$100,000. The Indiana State Soil Conservation Board will meet on October 24<sup>th</sup> to discuss and approve CWI grant applications. Nellie will meet the Cedar Creek Drainage board soon. She will keep the board updated with results.
- **Well Capping Workshop:** Nellie asked what the board members thought of the workshop. Judy Strock reported she was impressed that the local water departments were in attendance and she learned a lot. Everyone agreed it was a good workshop.
- **Women's Learning Circle:** Nellie reported the event was well attended and speakers were very good. Nellie asked the board members to let her know if they have any ideas for workshops next year.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Financial:**
  - **NACD Membership Dues:** Nellie reported an invoice and request for 2024 membership dues was received. She indicated last year the board decided to pay \$150 which falls in the bronze level. The board discussed the request. Judy Strock moved to pay \$150 to NACD for 2024 membership dues. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **Woodland Steward Newsletter:** Nellie reported a request from Woodland Steward to help pay for printing and postage of their newsletter sent to DeKalb County woodland owners. Judy Strock mentioned that she receives the newsletter and finds it very informative. The board discussed the request. Steve Provines moved to pay \$493.92 to Indiana Woodland Steward to help with printing and postage of their newsletter sent to DeKalb County woodland owners. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **District Cost Share Program (DCSP):** Nellie reported the district received an application for participation from Image of Hope Ranch for a pollinator plot. Steve Provines suggested since the ranch has a lot of people coming and going having signs included on the pollinator plot. Bill Ward will request the signs. The board discussed and reviewed the application and maps provided. Steve Provines moved to approve the application from Image of Hope Ranch for participation in the District Cost Share Program. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **DCSP/Soil Sampling:** Nellie brought up the small amount A&L Labs charges the district for soil sampling. She suggested offering the process for free through the cost share program. Nellie indicated approximately \$130 of cost share funds were used this year for soil sampling. It was suggested to put a cap of cost share funds to be used for soil sampling. It could then be revisited once the amount is depleted. The board also decided to only fund garden samples. The board further discussed the proposition. Judy Strock moved to offer garden soil samples for free using District Cost Share funds with a cap of \$500. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Election Committee:** Nellie reported the deadline to submit an Election Committee is November 1<sup>st</sup>. She stated the terms for Jeff Conrad as appointed supervisor and Sarah Delbecq elected supervisor expire in March 2024. Sarah Delbecq as Chair appointed Steve Provines, Judy Strock and Justin Hoover to the nomination committee with Steve to serve as Chairman. Julie will submit the committee names before the deadline. Nellie reminded the nomination committee that the deadline to submit nominations for appointed supervisor is also November 1<sup>st</sup> and elected supervisor is December 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Supervisor Appointment:** As previously reported Jeff Conrad's term as appointed supervisor will expire next year. The nomination committee will contact Jeff to inquire if he wishes to continue to serve on the board. If not they will recruit a replacement. The nomination committee will let Julie know before the deadline for submittal.
- **IASWCD Annual Conference:** Nellie reported the IASWCD annual conference is January 8-January 9, 2024. Early bird registration is \$395 per person and lodging is \$120 per night. She figured with food it will cost approximately \$700 per person to attend. She asked the board to consider limiting the amount of people attending the conference. The board discussed this and may limit the number of staff members and supervisors attending the conference. Nellie will send an email to the supervisors with a link to the agenda to see how many are interested in attending. The deadline for the early bird registration is November 16 with a considerable increase afterwards.
- **Demo Farm:** Nellie reported she met with Allen County SWCD and Adams County SWCD regarding a demo farm. Allen County SWCD received a contribution agreement thru NRCS for a demo farm. DeKalb County is being considered for the location of the farm. She is not sure what all is involved at this time but has requested additional information. Nellie will keep the board updated.
- **No-Till Drill:** Nellie asked Commissioner Mike Watson about storing the drill at the county farm for the winter. She wanted to know if there would be room in a barn or bay area. Mike Watson will look into the lease agreement to see if anything is available.

#### **NRCS Update:** Derek Thompson, DC

- Derek reported a continuing resolution was signed to keep the office open through November 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Derek reported EQIP/CSP is moving forward. The deadline for submitting applications is December 8. In early November there will be a training for programs for the new fiscal year.

- Derek reported at this time there is no CRP sign-up due to the Farm Bill expiring at the end of the fiscal year.

**ISDA Update:** Kate Sanders, RS

- Kate reported 49 CWI grant applications were submitted requesting over \$4.5 million.
- Kate reported the statewide CREP program will begin in January 2024.

**NEXT MEETING:**

- Wednesday November 15, 2023 @ 8:00am (an executive session will immediately follow to conduct annual reviews)

Judy Strock moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:25am.

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

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

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

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

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

Recorder \_\_\_\_\_

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