

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from September 13, 2022 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Judy Strock, Vice Chair
Jeff Conrad, Supervisor
Steve Watson, Supervisor
Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor

NRCS:

Derek Thompson, DC

ISDA:

Kate Sanders, RS

SWCD:

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

Absent:

Steve Provines, Supervisor
Justin Hoover, Associate Supervisor

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the September 13, 2022 board meeting to order at 5:26 p.m.

DISTRICT BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Since the August board meeting had been cancelled, Chair Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the July 2022 minutes that had been provided to the board members. Jeff Conrad moved to approve the July 21, 2022 minutes as written. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of July claims 8652-8663 and deposits D729-D731 and August claims 8664-8671 and deposits D732-739. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Jeff Conrad moved to approve claims 8652 through 8671 and deposits D729-D739 as presented. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **CWI Grant:** Nellie informed the board the grant has been submitted. She hopes to find out the results in October. Nellie will keep the board updated.
- **Community Foundation Grant:** Nellie reported the grant was approved, funding has been received and enviroscares delivered. She suggested having the enviroscares at a future board meeting with the staff giving a short presentation. Nellie informed the board the enviroscares will be available for upper elementary and middle school presentations.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Indiana Woodland Steward:** Nellie had a letter from the Woodland Steward Institute asking \$468 for the printing and distribution of the Woodland Steward newsletter sent to 300 woodland owners in DeKalb County. She reminded the board the district has supported Woodland Steward for many years. After discussion Judy Strock moved to approve payment of \$468 for the Woodland Steward newsletter. Jeff Conrad seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- **ARS-CEAP:** Julie Knudson reported the final amount of the ARS/CEAP contribution agreement has been received. She told the board that since the CEAP Technician position has been terminated and no longer being "passed thru" the County payroll and the local lab being shut down there is no reason for the district to continue to administer the agreement. Julie said there has been no amendments or contracts to continue the agreement received at this time so would like to inform ARS that the district will no longer administer contribution agreements for the project. The board discussed Julie request

and agreed that she should send a letter and ask that the district be updated periodically on the project and possibly help out where needed and if available.

- **DCSP:**

- Nellie reported two applications were received for participation from M. Diehl for a pollinator plot at the covered bridge in Spencerville and V. Duke for a streambank stabilization. Nellie informed the board the property around the covered bridge where the pollinator plot would be planted is owned by the county and a small portion by the neighboring landowner. Ms. Diehl has spoken to the landowner and they are OK with the project, however the board would like a signed permission letter stating their approval of the use of their property. The board reviewed the applications and discussed both projects. After much discussion Jeff Conrad moved to approve the applications from M. Diehl with a signed approval from the neighboring landowner and the use of signage at the plot and from V. Duke for participation in the District Cost Share Program. Steve Watson seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- Nellie reported participant D. Burns has completed their septic replacement and is requesting payment. The board reviewed the file and paperwork. Jeff Conrad moved to approve payment of \$2500 to D. Burns from District Cost Share funds. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

- **LARE Grant:** Nellie reported DNR has approved the Cedar Creek LARE Grant for the next step of implementing streambank stabilization. However, the Cedar Creek Design grant has to be completed before bidding on the construction can begin. Nellie has been in contact with Flatland Resources who is designing the project to get it finalized. She will keep the board updated.
- **Backyard Conservation Series:** Nellie reported the first workshop in the Backyard Conservation Series was held on Composting Basics. Home Depot donated a composting bin to be given away at the workshop, however it was not well attended. The staff thought maybe holding the event during a weekday evening could be why the attendance was low. The board and staff had a discussion on ideas for future workshops and possible ways to increase attendance. A few topics that were mentioned were rain gardens and how to use native plants in your landscaping. Frequency and time of year were also discussed. It was decided to potentially hold two workshops per year; one in the spring and one in the fall.
- **Winter Cover Crop Discussion Group:** Nellie reported her and Derek Thompson decided to hold a Winter Cover Crop Discussion meeting this year on December 7 from 9am-11am. It has been a few years since the district has had one because of the pandemic. It will be held at Rieke Park Lodge. Julie will send out notice/invites a few weeks before hand.
- **Clean Water Indiana Funding Campaign:** Nellie explained IASWCD is planning to ask the state legislators for \$8.6 million for Clean Water Indiana (CWI). She had a flyer with a breakdown of how the funds would be distributed and also attended a virtual meeting which has been recorded. Joe Schmees, Executive Director of IASWCD is asking supervisors to contact their state legislators to lobby for the increase in CWI funds. The board discussed the request from IASWCD on the large increase in CWI funds. Speaking points are to be sent to supervisors to help them discuss the CWI request with their legislators. Nellie will forward when it is received. In the meantime Nellie will email the recorded meeting to the board members for their review.

OTHER UPDATES:

- **NRCS update: Derek Thompson, District Conservationist:**
 - Derek reported the end of the fiscal year for NRCS is September 30th.
 - Derek wanted to thank Bill Ward and Kate Sanders for their help with CRP.

All programs and services of the DeKalb County Soil & Water Conservation District are offered on a nondiscriminatory basis, without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, or handicap.

- **ISDA update: Kate Sanders, Resource Specialist:**

- Kate wanted to remind the board of upcoming deadlines. Nomination committee and appointed supervisor forms are due November 1. Elected supervisor form is due December 1.
- Supervisor Sarah Delbecq reported she attended the ISDA Summer meeting on August 30 and gave a short update. She said meeting was well attended.

NEXT MEETING:

- Thursday October 20, 2022 @7:00pm

Judy Strock moved to adjourn the meeting. Steve Watson seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:06pm.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Steve Watson _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____