

DEKALB COUNTY SWCD
Minutes from September 20, 2023 Board Meeting

Supervisors:

Sarah Delbecq, Chair
Judy Strock, Vice Chair
Steve Provines, Supervisor
Justin Hoover, Supervisor
Bruce Bell II, Associate Supervisor
Cody Burniston, Associate Supervisor

Absent:

Jeff Conrad, Supervisor
Kate Sanders, ISDA

SWCD:

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

NRCS:

Derek Thompson, District Conservationist

Chair Sarah Delbecq called the September 20, 2023 board meeting to order at 8:00am.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- **Minutes:** Sarah Delbecq asked if there were any additions or corrections to the August 2023 minutes that had been provided to the board members. No additions or corrections were made. Justin Hoover moved to approve the August 21, 2023 minutes as written. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.
- **Financial Report:** Sarah Delbecq asked for approval of August claims 8799-8807 and deposits D793-D797. The board reviewed all claims and deposits. No corrections were made. Justin Hoover moved to approve claims 8799 through 8807 and deposits D793-D797 as presented. Steve Provines seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

- **LARE:** Nellie reported bids for the project has been advertised. She attended a pre-bid meeting held at the courthouse. Flatland Resources were the only ones in attendance; however, four bid packets have been sent out. Nellie also reported the Maumee River Basin Commission meeting is scheduled for October 12. The Commission will discuss and confirm their proposal for contributing funds towards the project.
- **CWI:** Nellie had a handout with information regarding grants submitted which included a map showing the counties requesting grant funds. She reported State Soil Conservation Board (SSCB) received 49 grant applications totaling \$4,570,938.18. The SSCB Grant Committee will meet to review applications on October 16th. The next full SSCB meeting is scheduled for October 24.
- **IASWCD Summer Meeting:** Nellie reported the meeting was held at Par-Gil in LaGrange. Meeting was well attended and participation was good. One item brought up was when using Facebook to advertise workshops, field days, sales, etc. there is a “boost” option to increase numbers of who would receive the page. She was not sure of the cost but did not think it was very much. She asked the board what they thought about trying it out to see if it could increase interest. The board was good at testing the process. The next workshop is a Seed Collection on October 19 from 5:30-6:30 at the district office.

NEW BUSINESS

- **CREP:** Nellie reported since the entire state is now eligible for CREP districts have the opportunity to be compensated for administering CREP in a watershed. Since St. Joe Watershed covers almost all of DeKalb County Nellie thought it might be worth applying to be the administrator. The district would receive 10% of each CREP contract in the watershed. The board asked if the staff would have enough time to administer the project. Nellie reported that yes, the staff would have the time. The board agreed to go ahead and send in an application to administer CREP in the St. Joe Watershed.

- **Financial:**

- **District Cost Share Program (DCSP):** Nellie reported the district received invoices for M. Diehl's pollinator plot planting. The total cost for DCSP is \$429.75. The board reviewed the file. Justin Hoover moved to approve payment to M. Diehl for \$429.75 using DCSP funds. Judy Strock seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed.

NRCS Update: Derek Thompson, DC

- Derek reported the end of the month is also the end of USDA fiscal year. He reminded the board if the government should shut down the district employees cannot use federal equipment including computers or work in the office. Nellie reported Bill Ward is the only district employee who has a CCE or federal computer. She has already spoken to the county IT dept, and they do have a laptop Bill will be able to borrow to use at his home.
- Derek reported there is a roll-out meeting planned in November for new Farm Bill programs.
- Derek reported Allen County SWCD has an agreement with NRCS for a demo farm in the WLEB area. They are looking at properties in DeKalb County. Derek will keep the board updated on any progress.

ISDA Update: Kate Sanders, RS (absent) No report given

NEXT MEETING:

- Wednesday October 18, 2023 @ 8:00am

Justin Hoover moved to adjourn the meeting. Judy Strock seconded. Vote was unanimous. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:24am.

Chairman: Sarah Delbecq _____

Judy Strock _____

Jeff Conrad _____

Steve Provines _____

Justin Hoover _____

Recorder _____

Date: _____