



Meeting Minutes DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to order Monthly Board Meeting

The Monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on 12/10/2025. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Kuhn at 12:30 p.m.

Attendees

Attendees included: Directors, Rick Bend, Anita Zurbrugg, Paul Kuhn, Lynn Martz and Dan Kenney

Associate Directors: Paul Koeppen Jr., Stan Doty and Paul Idlas

Staff: Dean Johnson, Executive Director and Grace Coveliers Resource Conservationist

NRCS: Aaron Seim, Alex Ibes and Rachel Rohrer

IDOA: Not Present

Guests:

Directors not in attendance

Members not present included:

Approval of the agenda

Motion to approve the 12/10/2025 agenda made by Director Zurbrugg seconded by Director Martz. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of November 12, 2025 made by Director Martz and seconded by Director Kenney. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurers Report

Motion to approve the Treasurers Report made by Director Zurbrugg. Director Bend seconded the motion, motion carried.

Reports

NRCS- Aaron Seim provided an update to the activities of the NRCS office for the month of November and the outlook for December.

NREC- No report

Resource Conservationist- Grace Coveliers provided a written report on her activities for the month of November and the outlook for December. Grace is now the Resource Conservationist for the DeKalb County SWCD.

Executive Director- Dean Johnson provided a written update for the past month's activities and the outlook for December.

DeKalb County Watersheds Council- Dean provided an update of the watershed council to the board. The Council will be working to support adoption of the Central South Branch Kishwaukee River Watershed-based plan to the communities and the county in the coming months.

Correspondence

Fall Covers for Spring Savings pre-enrollment starts December 3, 2025. Applications can be submitted starting at 8:00 a.m. December 15.

IDOA Conservation Cropping Seminar will be held on January 27, 2026 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau in Sycamore.

All SWCD's throughout the State are now required to complete the Illinois Healthy Soil Initiative County Assessment by September 30, 2026.

In correspondence with Chris Davis with the IEPA she informed Dean Johnson that we should be awarded a 604B grant for the Somonauk Creek Watershed. Official announcement should come around March. The grant would commence in the summer of 2026. Chris Davis will be retiring from the IEPA on December 31st.

The districts will be transitioning to be using Amplifund in the GATA portal for all agreements with IDOA and IEPA.

The Village of Kirkland and the City of Genoa have adopted the Central South Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed-based Plan.

The "I" Cover program will be restarted sometime in February 2026.

CPRG Climate Pollution Reduction Grant is estimated to be \$430 million. No-till/Strip till will be required for 3 years on approximately 644,000 acres. Districts will receive \$2 million to verify crop information and assist with planning. It is unknown how many acres are signed up for DeKalb County.

Local Work Groups will reconvene this spring, and reports are due to AISWCD by the end of April. We are still waiting on a payment of \$10,000 from NRCS for completing the task last year.

Unfunded Memorandum with NRCS is now up for renewal, Information has been submitted to NRCS.

SWCD elections will be held on February 11, 2026.

Time Sheet Approval

Employee Time Sheets Reviewed By: Director Martz

Unfinished business

None

New business

NRI #750 Endeavor Energy Data Center City of DeKalb: Director Bend moved to approve the Natural Resource Information Report #750 for Endeavor Energy in the City of DeKalb. Director Zurbrugg seconded the motion, motion carried.

Establish an Interview Committee for the Administrative Coordinator Position: Director Martz, Zurbrugg and Kenney volunteered to serve on the interview committee for the Administrative Coordinator position.

2026 Employee Contracts: Director Zurbrugg moved to approve the negotiated contracts with employees Dean Johnson and Grace Coveliers for 2026. Director Martz seconded the motion, motion carried.

Employee Christmas Bonus: Director Martz moved to approve a \$250 net Christmas bonus each for the two District employees. Director Bend seconded the motion, motion carried.

Conservation Minute: Dean Johnson presented a topic on the efficiencies of solar and wind energy.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Director Kenney and seconded by Director Bend, approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be on January 14, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau's Center for Agriculture in Sycamore Illinois.

Chairman

Date