



# Meeting Minutes

## DeKalb County

### Soil and Water Conservation District

#### Call to order

The monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on 8/14/2024. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Kuhn at 7:00 p.m.

#### Attendees

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

**Associate Directors:** Jim Arndt, Peggy Anesi

**Staff:** Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

**NRCS:** Aaron Seim, Alex Ibes, and Rachel Rohrer

**IDOA:**

**Guests:** 7

#### Directors not in attendance

**Members not in attendance included:** John Begun

#### Approval of the agenda

**Motion to approve agenda made by:** Director Martz and seconded by Director Kenney, approved.

#### Approval of minutes

**Motion to approve minutes of the July 10, 2024 meetings made by:** Director Zurbrugg, seconded by Director Martz, approved.

#### Approval of Treasurers Report

**Motion to approve the Treasures Report made by:** Director Kenney and seconded by Director Zurbrugg, approved.

## Reports

**NRCS Report:** District Conservationist Aaron Seim provided a written report of the activities for the month of August and the outlook for September.

**SWCD Resource Conservationist:** Jeff Woodyatt provided a written report of the activities of the Resource Conservationist for the month of August and the outlook for activities occurring in September.

**SWCD Executive Director:** Dean Johnson provided a written report on the activities of the Executive Director for the month of August and the outlook for September.

**University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator:** Peggy Anesi reported that summer camps are complete and were very successful. She also reported that they have been awarded another grant from the Wheaton Franciscans for \$10,000.00 to continue the water quality programming she is currently undertaking. Recycling programs are coming back as a result of support from waste management.

**IDOA:** No Report

## Correspondence

Work is still in progress with the DeKalb County Community Foundation to restructure funding for the Watershed Coordinator Position and the roles of the SWCD. It may be around the first of the year before an agreement can be reached.

There is a petition drive ongoing to bring back funding to the districts that were removed during the legislative session this spring. A downstate Senator has proposed a bill that would address this issue, this will likely come up in the fall veto session for consideration.

The AISWCD has informed the districts about several initiatives regarding projects/grants they are pursuing; some are near completion and need signatures. These opportunities provide additional workload for the staff and recognition to the efforts of the districts which is one of the goals presented by the AISWCD leadership, but they do not replace or provide much additional operations financial support.

Mr. Johnson met with Nicole Juday Rhoads who represents IDEAL industries as their Foundation Chair. Ideal has taken on a project along West Prairie Drive and Borden Ave in Sycamore in which they are creating a walking path with picnic areas etc. to enhance the Wet Detention Basin that is located next to their facilities. The project is called the Connector. They have an interest in making this project a valued asset to the community. We are planning to work with them on some educational components that can be used to enhance the community's connection to water quality from this investment.

The district will be holding a Farmer's Workshop at the John and Linda Begun Farm on August 21<sup>st</sup>. Dr. Mike Konen, Alexa Skirmont and Dean Johnson will be the presenters.

The Pheasants Forever Banquet has been changed from August 29<sup>th</sup> to November 19<sup>th</sup> at Faranda's in DeKalb.

Patty Foster from Foster's Accounting will be conducting the financial review in the next week for the district.

## Time Sheet Approval

Employee time sheets were reviewed and approved by: Director Kuhn.

## Unfinished business

### New business

**PFC Cost Share-** Director Zurbrugg moved to approve \$7415.10 in PFC cost share to Mark Hawkins for cover crops and strip-till conservation practices. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

**FY25 Annual Plan of Work-** Director Zurbrugg moved to approve the FY25 Annual Plan of Work for the DeKalb County SWCD. Director Martz seconded the motion, motion carried.

**NRI #739 Hueber Parkway and Rt. 38-** Director Zurbrugg moved to approve NRI #739 with the districts comments as presented. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

## Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

## Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be September 11, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau, 1350 West Prairie Dr. in Sycamore, IL

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Chairman

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Date