



# Meeting Minutes DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District

## Call to order

The monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on April 13, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Begun at 7:10 p.m.

## Attendees

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

**Associate Directors:** Jim Arndt, Byron Cann, and Peggy Doty

**Staff:** Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

**NRCS:**

**Guest:** Alexa Rutherford

## Directors not in attendance

**Members not in attendance included:**

## Approval of the agenda

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

## Approval of minutes

**Motion to approve minutes of the March 9, 2022 meeting made by:** Director Zurbrugg, seconded by Director Kenney, approved.

## Approval of Treasurers Report

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

## Reports

**NRCS Report:** No Report

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

**SWCD Executive Director:** Dean Johnson provided a written report of the activities of the Executive Director for the month of March and the outlook for April.

**University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator:** Peggy Doty provided an update on the planning and activities of the Natural Resource Center. They are not having much success hiring an individual to work at the Natural Resource Center to assist Peggy with programs. Might consider hiring 2 part-time employees. The G-Force youth group from the Sycamore Middle School has received grants to support this project. We are looking forward to their projects soon.

## Correspondence

Illinois Department of Agriculture grants have been distributed to the SWCD's for signatures. DeKalb County SWCD will receive \$81,958.76 in operations and \$26,112.68 in PFC cost share funds. We are uncertain when the funds will arrive.

The Illinois State Budget has been approved and SWCD's will be receiving the same funding as in the past year. The Partners for Conservation program has been renewed for one more year. There have been efforts to extend the life for 10 years but that has failed for this year.

Fall Cover for Savings Program was not increased this year total budgeted for the program was \$660,000.00. There was no new funding for Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategy Programs or Soil Health initiatives.

The Illinois Legislature approved March 9, 2023 Soil Health Week.

Coffee Conservation Forums- 17 Producers attended plus staff from NRCS and the SWCD. There were good conversations on several conservation topics.

Dean and Jeff attended the Midwestern Watersheds Leadership Conference. Both individuals reported that the speakers and presentations were very valuable and that they benefitted from attending.

## Time Sheet Approval

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

## Unfinished business

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Event-** The Committee is working on the event speakers; Gabe Brown from North Dakota is expected to accept our invitation. We are also planning a Producer forum for Friday the 15<sup>th</sup> at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau. The Venue has been secured for July 14 at Jonamac Orchard in Malta. Committee members are also working on sponsorships for the event and caterers. The Committee asked Board members to assist in securing sponsors. The Committee will meet again at 6:00 p.m. prior to the May SWCD Board meeting.

## New business

**Review of the Water Data Collected from the Kishwaukee River Collection Sites.** The Resource Conservationist provided an update on information found on the Watershed Website in regard to the watershed data. A new format is being used. It was also recommended that the NIU Graduate Student present at our next meeting to discuss her finding thus far.

## Adjournment

**Motion to Adjourn:** Director Martz, seconded by Director Zurbrugg, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

## Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be May 11, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau's Center for Agriculture in Sycamore.

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Chairman

Date