



Meeting Minutes DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to order

The monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on 12/13/2023. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Paul Kuhn at 12:35 p.m.

Attendees

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

Associate Directors: Jim Arndt, Nick Moore, Gordon Kohn, Byron Cann, Rick Bend and Peggy Doty

Staff: Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

NRCS: Aaron Seim, Alex Ibes, Kate McMahon, Rachel Rohrer

IDOA:

Guests: Stan Doty and Daryl Crum

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 November 8, 2023 meetings made by: Director Kenney, seconded by Director Martz, approved.

Approval of Treasurers Report

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

Reports

NRCS Report: District Conservationist Aaron Seim provided a report on the activities of the NRCS office and the outlook for the month of December. Aaron reported that funding will increase dramatically this year with the addition of a new program called ACT Now which is associated with the EQIP program. The Conservation Fund grant has run out of money so it will not be available moving forward.

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

SWCD Executive Director: Dean Johnson provided a written report of the activities of the Executive Director for the month of November and the outlook for December.

University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator: Peggy Doty provided updates to the activities at the Natural Resource Center. Activities currently under way include the Watershed Stewardship for Leaders Seminars, planning for the Master Watershed program and anticipating coming once again is funding for Solid Waste composting opportunities. Peggy also informed the board that they have received funding from the Wheaton Grant to pay for teacher education programs this year.

IDOA: No Report

Correspondence

FY24 Grant Agreements from the IDOA have arrived for signatures. We can expect two batches of payments the first will arrive in February the second in the spring. There are changes to the agreement to encourage Districts to have Level 3 planners. Expected payment to be around \$87,000.

We have held two Watershed Steering Committee Meetings for the Central South Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed. Next meeting will be January 18, 2024.

The DeKalb County SWCD has submitted an IEPA 604 (b) Water Quality Grant application to do watershed-based planning in the Somonauk Creek Watershed. We anticipate it may take 2 months before we know the outcome of the application. We also plan to submit a IEPA 319 grant application in January for the same area to give us a backup in case we are not successful with the 604 (b) application. Cost of the grant is \$166,600.

NIU is looking for volunteers for well water testing for micro-plastics.

The DeKalb County Stormwater Planning and Management Committee will be hosting an event for community leaders on February 29. The title is “Enhancing County Wide Infrastructure Planning”.

Time Sheet Approval

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

Unfinished business

None

New business

Approve Employee Contracts for 2024- Director Kenney moved to approve the negotiated employee contracts with Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt for 2024. Director Martz seconded the motion, motion carried.

Employee Christmas Bonus- Director Martz moved to provide a \$250.00 (net) Christmas bonus for each of the district employees. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adjust Personnel Policy on Annual Leave- Director Kenney moved to approve changes to the annual leave policy for reflect the federal guidelines. Director Martz seconded the motion, motion carried.

Add Family Medical Leave Act to the SWCD Personnel Policy- Director Martz moved to add (FMLA) guidelines to the DeKalb County SWCD Personnel Policy. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

NRI for Clare Solar # 733- Director Kenney moved to approve the NRI report 733 for Clare Solar in Mayfield Township. Director Martz seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adjournment

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

Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be February 14, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture in Sycamore.

Chairman

Date