



# Meeting Minutes DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District

## Call to order

The monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on December 14, 2022. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Begun at 12:43 p.m.

## Attendees

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

**Associate Directors:** Jim Arndt, Rick Bend, Byron Cann, Joe Gulotta, and Peggy Doty

**Staff:** Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

**NRCS:** Arron Seim and Alex Ibes

**Guest:** Jake Brock

## Directors not in attendance

Members not in attendance included: N/A

## Approval of the agenda

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

## Approval of minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the November 9, 2022 meetings made by: Director Kenney, seconded by Director Kuhn, approved.

## Approval of Treasurers Report

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

## Reports

**NRCS Report:** District Conservationist Arron Seim provided a report on the activities of the NRCS for the month of November and the outlook for December. Mr. Seim introduced Alex Ibes as the new Soil Conservationist who will be located in the Sycamore Field Office.

**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 she has been working on over the past several months.

## Correspondence

The DeKalb County SWCD is still waiting on paperwork for the IEPA Section 319 grant. The planning process should begin around March 1, 2023.

IDOA has begun advertising for the 40 new Conservation Planners that they intend to hire to support Federal Programs. New employees will be employed by the Sangamon County SWCD and funding will come from a grant provided by NRCS and IDOA.

The DeKalb County SWCD has spent its FY21 cost share allocation for the PFC program. An additional \$14,000.00 was provided to the District from other counties and that has been spent as well.

Planning is underway to hold a Farm Advisors meeting in February. This effort is to try to encourage Advisors to work with Farmers to install more Best Management Practices to control erosion along with more soil health practices. Nutrient Loss Reduction Strategies need to be more common to help achieve the established goals.

Conservation "Shop Talks" are planned again for this Spring

The State Association has opened a new office in downtown Springfield, they are looking for more opportunities to host legislative meetings as it is close to the State Capital Building.

IDOA is hoping to get Operations monies out before Cost Share funds this year. There is no timeline for this to happen.

The IDOA has reported that the RCPP (Regional Conservation Partnership Program) grant is in limbo. They are struggling to work out challenges with the process. This funding is supposed to enhance PFC cost share on practices such as cover crops, no-till, strip till, conservation cover and rain gardens.

Dean and Jeff had a virtual meeting with several Professors and Grad Students from NIU regarding a federal grant involving Farmers and Climate Change. More information to come soon.

The IDOA Conservation Cropping Seminar will be January 18<sup>th</sup> in Springfield and it will also be made available in a virtual format. Signup by visiting the Champaign County SWCD Website.

## Time Sheet Approval

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

## Unfinished business

### New business

**NRI 722 (off Bastian)-** Director Kenney moved to approve NRI report 722 with the stated SWCD recommendations. Director Zurbrugg seconded the motion, motion carried.

**NRI 723 (off Kane)-** Director Kenney moved to approve NRI report 723 with the stated SWCD recommendations. Director Zurbrugg seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Vegetative Filter Strip Tax Assessment reduction for Kent Wesson-** Director Zurbrugg moved to approve the certification of a vegetative filter strip for Kent Wesson's applications to get a tax assessment reduction on the identified filter strips. Director Martz seconded the motion, motion carried.

**2023 Employee Contracts-** Director Kuhn moved to approve the 2023 employee contracts for Dean Johnson and Jeffery Woodyatt. Director Zurbrugg seconded the motion, motion carried.

**Employee Christmas Bonus-** Director Zurbrugg moved to provide \$250.00 (net) Christmas bonus each to Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt. Director Kuhn seconded the motion, motion carried.

## Adjournment

**Motion to Adjourn:** Director Zurbrugg, seconded by Director Kenney, motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

## Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be January 11, 2023 at 12:30 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