



Meeting Minutes

DeKalb County

Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to order

A Zoom meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on February 10, 2021. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Begun at 12:30 p.m.

Attendees

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

Associate Directors: Paul Dreska and Janeen Vogeler

Staff: Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

NRCS: Aaron Seim

Guest: None

Directors not in attendance

Members not in attendance included:

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 December 9, 2020 meeting made by: Director Martz, seconded by Director Kenney, 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 presented a printed report updating the board on the activities of NRCS for the months of December and January and the outlook for February.

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

SWCD Executive Director: Dean Johnson provided a written report of the activities of the Executive Director for the months of December and January and the outlook for February.

University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator: No report

Correspondence

The Local and State Envirothon has been cancelled this year due to the pandemic

Gerald Sanderson State winner of the Conservation Farm Family of the Year has passed away

Precision Conservation Management is working with the Illinois Corn Growers Association and the Illinois Soybean Association to hire an individual to be employed by the local SWCD to provide conservation services and support to promote Farm Bill programs to more farmers in the DeKalb, Boone, Lee, Ogle and Winnebago County.

The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program CREP is trying to make a comeback. New contracts are being drafted by IDNR for the SWCD's. IDNR will hold new easements. SWCD's will need to decide if they are going to provide administrative and monitoring of easements or just do administrative activities. There is a payment schedule for these activities. CREP specialists will be available to provide assistance to the districts.

We are working on a proposal to work with the Kishwaukee Water Reclamation District to do a rain barrel program in DeKalb. Details are being worked out.

Regenerative Ag Webinar is being hosted by the LUC-16 is set for March 4, 2021 from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Farm Bureau's Summer Ag Institute is tentatively scheduled for June 14-17. They will try to do a themed water quality program with the assistance from the SWCD.

There have been many improvements to the watershed website, make sure to check it out. Completed plans and ongoing information regarding the Little Rock Creek Watershed are available at the site.

Pond/Lake Clinic is set for February 16. David Wyffels from IDNR will be presenting

The District is currently investigating the use of ePAY from the State of Illinois Treasurer's office to accept credit cards online.

Time Sheet Approval

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

Unfinished business

None

New business

Review of Fee Schedules- Director Martz moved to increase the fee for a letter for the Natural Resources Information Report to \$100.00. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adopt Upper South Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Improvement Plan- Director Zurbrugg moved to adopt the Upper South Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed Improvement Plan. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

Correspondence with Legislators- The AISWCD is encouraging SWCD's to contact our local legislators to make them aware of funding concerns with the SWCD's in Illinois and locally. Director Zurbrugg has agreed to prepare a letter to be shared with Directors so they can correspond with the legislators. It was the consensus of the Board to support this endeavor and thanked Ms. Zurbrugg for her willingness to take on this task.

Looking Forward for Funding Support- The board briefly discussed the challenges ahead for funding as the State of Illinois struggles financially. A suggestion of promoting grain donation to the District as farmers sell their crops in the fall may be a convenient way to solicit donations. Director Kenney mentioned that Facebook may be encouraged to donate to the SWCD, Mr. Kenney was going to contact the City of DeKalb Manager to see if that would be an option.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Director Martz, seconded by Director Kenney, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be March 10, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. . The meeting will be held in the Farm Bureau conference room located in the DeKalb County Farm Bureau's Center for Agriculture in Sycamore, Illinois.

Chairman

Date

**Special Meeting
February 19, 2021
10:00 a.m.
DeKalb County Farm Bureau Conference Center**

Attendees: Director's Begun, Kuhn, Martz, Kenney and Zurbrugg
Rick Bend Associate Director

Staff: Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

New Business

NRI Fee Cap- A discussion was held to determine if it would be necessary to place a fee cap on the NRI fee schedule due to several potential large projects being proposed in DeKalb County.

Director Zurbrugg moved to keep the fee schedule as is with no cap on fees.
Director Martz seconded the motion, motion carried.

Adjournment

Director Kenney Move to adjourn the meeting. Director Martz seconded the motion, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.