



Meeting Minutes

DeKalb County

Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to order

The monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on 2/14/2024. The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Lynn Martz at 12:30 p.m.

Attendees

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

Associate Directors: Peggy Anesi, Rick Bend, Byron Cann

Staff: Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

NRCS: Aaron Seim

IDOA:

Guests:

Directors not in attendance

Members not in attendance included: John Begun and Paul Kuhn

Approval of the agenda

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

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the January 10, 2024 meetings made by: Director Zurbrugg, 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 provided a report on the activities of the NRCS office and the outlook for the month of February. Aaron provided updates on CSP, EQIP and CRP programs. NRCS Chief was in Illinois on January 24th. Katundra Shears is the new ASTC for Area 1 which includes most of Northern Illinois.

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

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

University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator: Peggy Anesi updated the board on activities she has been involved in over the past month and provided an outlook into the rest of the spring and summer which includes Nature Fest and a Teachers Workshop.

IDOA: The January-February Bureau of Land and Water Resources report was provided to the board to review.

Correspondence

The district received its first installment of the FY24 operations grant through the IDOA for \$69,958.76. We expect the balance to come by May 1st. Total operations funding from IDOA is expected to be \$87,937.71. Cost share funds for the Partners for Conservation Program are estimated to be \$37,971.32.

Watershed based planning is progressing, the next meeting will be March 21 at 3:00 p.m. . The goals workshop will be April 18th at 6:00 p.m. at the Genoa City Hall.

604b IEPA Watershed planning grant application for the Somonauk Creek Watershed has been submitted and is under review by the IEPA. We are still planning to submit a 319 grant for the same watershed as a backup, the IEPA has not posted the dates yet for submittal of proposals.

The excessive erosion complaint regarding property located near Base Line Road along Rt. 23 is being addressed. NRCS will be working with the new tenant to address the issues.

Enhancing County Wide Infrastructure Planning will be held on February 29th in DeKalb. This is an opportunity to try to start change in ordinances that align with the watershed planning that has been occurring throughout the county. Dean will be one of the presenters, the program is sponsored by the DeKalb County Stormwater Planning and Management committee.

NRCS has a communication system in the conference room that is not functioning anymore, and they are planning to dispose of it. Both agencies use the TV monitor as a tool in working with producers and providing educational programs. Looking ahead it may be feasible to purchase a new TV to replace the system that will be disposed of. This may be a topic for discussion at a future meeting on whether to make a purchase of a new TV for the conference room.

Time Sheet Approval

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

Unfinished business

None

New business

Donation to the NE IL Envirothon- Director Zurbrugg moved to donate \$500 to the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

Earth Day Event at the Egyptian Theater sponsored by DECARBON DEKALB- Director Kenney moved that we donate \$250 toward the event and consider providing a display. Director Zurbrugg seconded the motion, motion carried after discussion.

Looking Forward in 2024- The Executive Director provided the board with an outlook into activities in 2024. This will be a busy year with watershed projects and educational opportunities.

The meeting concluded with a “conservation minute” presentation by the Executive Director on Agriculture Drainage.

Adjournment

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be March 13, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture in Sycamore.

Chairman

Date