



Meeting Minutes DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to order

The monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on 6/12/2024. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Kuhn at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees

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

Associate Directors: Stan Doty, Peggy Anesi, Rick Bend, Paul Koeppen and Jim Arndt

Staff: Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

NRCS:

IDOA:

Guests: The Koeppen girls

Directors not in attendance

Members not in attendance included:

Approval of the agenda

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

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the May 12, 2024 meetings made by: Director Zurbrugg, seconded by Director Martz, approved.

Approval of Treasurers Report

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

Reports

NRCS Report: District Conservationist Aaron Seim provided a written report of the activities for the month of June and the outlook for July.

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

SWCD Executive Director: Dean Johnson provided a written report on the activities of the Executive Director for the month of June and the outlook for July.

University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator: The teacher's workshop was successful, many excellent presentations. Summer camp will start up soon. New signage has been installed at the Sycamore Middle School to reflect the work of the G Force project at the school.

IDOA: No Report

Correspondence

The District has submitted a 319 grant application to the IEPA for watershed planning in the Somonauk Creek Watershed. We now have 2 applications under consideration.

The legislature has approved the State budget, the SWCD will see a reduction to \$4.5 million for the SWCDs statewide. This is a 42% reduction from last year's allocation. The districts are to anticipate only \$41,000 in operations funds for each district. \$1 million will go towards employee insurance and \$500,000 for state cost share. AISWCD is working on a plan to move more money to operations, but this would have to be approved by the IDOA.

Balance of FY24 operation funds still left to be received is \$17,051.55.

Watershed Bus tour will be June 15th

Annual Summer Conference is July 14-16 at the Crown Plaza in Springfield.

Time Sheet Approval

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

Unfinished business

Summer Activity- Director Zurbrugg has offered to host a summer activity and board meeting at her home on August 14, 2024.

New business

PFC Cost Share Projects- Director Zurbrugg moved to approve the amended cost share for Jerry Anderson's Pollinator project to \$1452.05. Seconded by Director Kenney, approved.

Director Kenney moved to approve the cost share of \$14,548.06 for a grassed waterway for Josh Favre. Director Martz seconded the motion, the motion carried by a vote of 4 yes 0 no. Director Zurbrugg abstained.

Well Sealing- Director Zurbrugg moved to approve cost share for Shronda Ruff Trust for \$850.00 to seal an abandoned well. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

Financial Review- Director Martz moved to approve contracting with Foster Tax and Accounting LLC to complete the financial review for the district. Director Begun seconded the motion, motion carried.

STAR Program Assistance- The DeKalb County SWCD was asked if we would be interested in being a support county for the new features for the STAR Program (Saving Tomorrows Agriculture Resources) it was the consensus of the board that this would be an added responsibility that the Resource Conservationist would not have time for, and it would provide no compensation for the time spent towards this task.

DeKalb County Community Foundation Proposal- The DCCF has been providing financial assistance for the Watershed Coordinator role in the county since 2016. The Executive Director of the Foundation has approached the District about some role changes and responsibilities that would involve more time investment for the Watershed Coordinator. The SWCD board is interested in pursuing this proposal if it fits the districts goals and is financially viable for the additional workload investment. Additional discussions will be ongoing.

Budget Workshop- The board will meet on July 2nd at 11:00 a.m. to discuss the FY25 budget.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be July 10, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture in Sycamore.