



Meeting Minutes

DeKalb County

Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to order

The monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on 11/8/2023. The meeting was called to order by Chairman John Begun at 7:00 p.m.

Attendees

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

Associate Directors: Jim Arndt, Peggy Doty, and Paul Koeppen Jr.

Staff: Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

NRCS: Aaron Seim

IDOA: Shelly Ray

Guest:

Directors not in attendance

Members not in attendance included: Lynn Martz

Approval of the agenda

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

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the September 13, 2023 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 Aaron Seim provided a report on the activities of the NRCS office and the outlook for the month of October. Aaron highlighted that the office was doing contract management, the Organic Transition Program will be funded for 4 years. A new program called Act Now which is meant to speed up approvals for EQIP is starting soon. CRP reviews are ongoing.

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

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

University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator: Peggy Doty provided updates to the activities at the Natural Resource Center and the upcoming Watershed Stewardship for Leaders Seminars that started in November.

IDOA: Shelly Ray Regional Representative for IDOA gave updates on programs and due dates for PFC submittals and upcoming activities such as the Conservation Cropping Seminar at the end of January.

Correspondence

FY24 Grant Agreements from the IDOA have arrived for signatures. We can expect two batches of payments the first will arrive in early 2024 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.

Dean has been asked to do a short video for the State Ag in the Classroom on watersheds.

Time Sheet Approval

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

Unfinished business

None

New business

Comptrollers Annual Report and CPA Financial Review for the District- Director Zurbrugg moved to approve the FY23 Comptroller's Report and the CPA's Financial Review of the District. Director Kuhn seconded the motion, motion carried.

PFC Project Update- The Resource Conservationist reported that a few of the grassed waterway projects have not been completed by the deadline and that the District would be informing the IDOA that we will have funds available to send to other Districts that need money to complete their projects.

Nominating Committee- It was the consensus of the board to ask Janeen Voegler, Jim Arndt and Byron Cann on their willingness to serve on the Nominating Committee for this year's Director's election. The Executive Director will call on them to verify their interest to serve in this capacity.

Grant Opportunities- The Resource Conservationist provided some research information regarding grant opportunities that the district may want to pursue. The board was open to having staff continue its investigation and to have them provide updates at future meetings.

Employee Review and Contract negotiations date- It was the consensus of the board to meet on Tuesday December 12th at 10:30 a.m. in the SWCD office for employee reviews and contract discussions.

Christmas Lunch- It was the consensus of the board to celebrate the holiday season with a holiday lunch at noon on December 13 prior to the SWCD board meeting at 12:30.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Director Kuhn and seconded by Director Zurbrugg

Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be January 10, 2024 at 12:30 p.m.. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau Center for Agriculture in Sycamore.

Chairman

Date