Meeting Minutes
DeKalb County
Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to order Monthly Board Meeting

The Monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on 1/14/2026. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Kuhn at 12:35 p.m.

Attendees

Attendees included: Directors, Rick Bend, Anita Zurbrugg, Paul Kuhn, Lynn Martz and Dan Kenney

Associate Directors: Jim Arndt, Peggy Anesi, and Stan Doty

Staff: Dean Johnson, Executive Director and Grace Coveliers Resource Conservationist

NRCS: Aaron Seim

IDOA: Not Present

Guests: Brooke Watson

Directors not in attendance

Members not present included:

Approval of the agenda

Motion to approve the 1/14/2026 agenda made by Director Kenney seconded by Director Zurbrugg. Motion carried.

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve the meeting minutes of December 10, 2025 made by Director Kenney and seconded by Director Martz. Motion carried.

Approval of Treasurers Report

Motion to approve the Treasurers Report made by Director Zurbrugg. Director Bend seconded the motion, motion carried.

Reports

NRCS- Aaron Seim provided an update to the activities of the NRCS office for the month of December and the outlook for January.

NREC- Peggy Anesi reported that Watershed Stewardship for Leaders Program will conclude on February 5,2026. The plan is to offer it in Ogle County and then statewide. Peggy is looking to hire an intern to help with tracking program outcomes. Planning for the Master Naturalist Program is ongoing. New programs coming up are the Watershed Stewardship for Community members, rainscaping with the plan to locate a space to build a rain garden. Peggy is also working with campus to develop Private Well Stewards Program.

Resource Conservationist- Grace Coveliers provided and written report on her activities for the month of December and the outlook for January.

Executive Director- Dean Johnson provided a written update for the past month's activities and the outlook for January.

DeKalb County Watersheds Council- The Watershed Council will meet on January 28,2026.

Correspondence

IDOA Conservation Cropping Seminar will be held on January 27, 2026 at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau in Sycamore.

Local Work Groups will reconvene this spring, and reports are due to AISWCD by the end of April. We are still waiting for a payment of $10,000 from NRCS to complete the task last year.

SWCD elections will be held on February 11, 2026.

Dean Johnson has been asked to serve on the NIU Prairie Restoration Advisory Board. The focus is on the "North Forty" property at NIU.

Mary Hess Supervisor from DeKalb Township asked if the district would be willing to assist in finding partners to plant trees that the township will provide in an effort to help celebrate the USA's 250th anniversary.

Time Sheet Approval

Employee Time Sheets Reviewed By: Director Martz

Unfinished business

None

New business

NRI #751 JJK 343 LLC Section 4- Director Zurbrugg moved to approve NRI #751 for a commercial development to be annexed into the City of DeKalb. Director Kenney seconded to the motion, motion carried.

Review of Fee Schedules for 2026: Dean Johnson presented fee data from neighboring county SWCDs. Following extensive discussion, the board agreed to postpone the review until the February meeting, allowing the Executive Director time to prepare and present scenarios for further consideration prior to reaching a final decision.

Administrative Coordinator Position- Director Martz moved that the DeKalb County SWCD board hire Brooke Watson as the new Administrative Coordinator. Director Zurbrugg seconded the motion, the vote was unanimous in favor of the new hire. Congratulations to Booke!

Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds Conference- Director Kenney moved to approve Grace Coveliers's attendance at the conference; Director Martz seconded, and the motion passed. Training funds are being requested from IDOA to offset costs.

Poster Contest- Director Zurbrugg moved to offer a poster contest to the DeKalb County Schools with a $25.00 first prize payout for each category winner. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

Envirothon Donation- Director Martz moved to approve a $200 donation to the Northeastern Illinois Envirothon. Director Kenney seconded the motion, motion carried.

Conservation Minute- Dean Johnson provided an update on the watershed website that follows the flow of a raindrop to its outlet.

Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: Director Kenney moved to adjourn the meeting, and it was seconded by Director Zurbrugg.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be on February 11, 2026 at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau's Center for Agriculture in Sycamore Illinois.

Chairman	Date