



Meeting Minutes DeKalb County Soil and Water Conservation District

Call to order

The monthly Board meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD was held on 12/11/2024. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Paul Kuhn at 12:30 p.m.

Attendees

Attendees included: Directors, Paul Kuhn, Lynn Martz, Anita Zurbrugg, Dan Kenney (arrived at 12:40) and John Begun

Associate Directors: Jim Arndt, Peggy Anesi, Byron Cann, Gordon Kohn and Stan Doty.

Staff: Dean Johnson and Jeff Woodyatt

NRCS: Aaron Seim

IDOA:

Guests:

Directors not in attendance

Members not in attendance included:

Approval of the agenda

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

Approval of minutes

Motion to approve minutes of the November 13, 2024 meetings made by: Director Martz, seconded by Director Zurbrugg, approved.

Approval of Treasurers Report

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

Reports

NRCS Report: District Conservationist Aaron Seim provided a written report on the activities of the NRCS office for the month of November and the outlook for December. Aaron stated that the office had just completed a Quality Assurance Review by NRCS and that the results were favorable.

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

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

University of Illinois Natural Resources Educator: Peggy Anesi reported that they have received additional funds from the Wheaton Foundation and that she is using some of that money to purchase environmental models for educational purposes.

IDOA: No Report

Correspondence

Dean and Jeff attended winter training in Springfield, it was announced that a new AISWCD Executive Director would be in place by the end of the year.

Updates from NRCS included an agreement with the AISWCD to assist in re-establishing Local Work Group meetings in each district. Districts that participate will receive \$10,000.00/year for the next 3 years. Another funding opportunity for watershed planning and funding for some districts will be determined by NRCS on which watersheds will qualify. Odds are not good for our district to be in the selected areas.

Updates from IDNR- they are also short staffed. The Attorney General has given the green light to allow Districts to transfer CREP easements to IDNR. This is a resolution to issues that have occurred in several of the Districts throughout the State.

The DeKalb County SWCD has completed its 3-year monitoring of the CREP easement held by Randy and Elizabeth Espe. Everything looked like it was in order.

Updates from IEPA- they are in the process of moving their office to the west side of Springfield. Chris Davis shared with me that she thought that the announcement for 604b grant application winners would be around the first of the year.

IDOA updates- The Bureau of Land and Water has a new chief. The IDOA plans to start working on grant agreements for FY25 after they conclude with PFC payments for FY23. They mentioned that performance-based funding may be coming back for operations. They introduced a new program called I Cover which is in combination with NRCS's RCPP program. The focus is on cover crops and paying 100% of the scenario if the participant commits to 3 years in a row and applies earlier application technologies on fields that have had cover crops in the past. Sign-up will be through IDOA on a first come first serve basis. More to come later this year.

The district will have new responsibilities with the recently funded Public Act 103 regarding soil health initiatives to be delivered by the IDOA and the SWCDs. Responsibilities to be coming soon.

Time Sheet Approval

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

Unfinished business

Samardzija- Guthesha Family Fund update- The Community Foundation is reviewing the proposal; no further updates were available at this time.

New business

2025 Employee Contracts- Director Zurbrugg moved to approve the negotiated contracts for Dean Johnson and Jeffery Woodyatt for 2025. Director Martz seconded the motion, motion carried.

Employee Christmas Bonus- Director Martz moved to give a Christmas bonus of \$250.00 (net) each to the 2 District employees. Director Begun seconded the motion, motion carried.

2025 Election of Directors- It was the consensus of the board that the 2025 election of Directors be held on February 12, 2025 at the DeKalb County SWCD office in Sycamore IL. Election hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Adjournment

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

The meeting was adjourned at 1:18 p.m.

Announcements

The next meeting of the DeKalb County SWCD will be February 12, 2025 at 12:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the DeKalb County Farm Bureau, 1350 West Prairie Dr. in Sycamore, IL

Chairman

Date