

# DeKalb County Watersheds Council

## Meeting Minutes

---



**DATE:** 1-28-2026

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT:** 3:00 p.m. by Dean Johnson

### Attendance:

Dean Johnson    Jolene Willis    Kris Aves    Peggy Anesi  
 Beth Prestegaard    Anita Zurbrugg    Matt Anderson    Matt Deitch  
 Kelsey Musich    Nick Newman    Autumn Carlson    Grace Coveliers    Kyle White

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA:** Anita Zurbrugg moved to approve the agenda, Kris Aves seconded the motion, motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:** Jolene Willis moved to approve the October 29 , 2025 meeting minutes, Autumn Carlson seconded the motion, motion carried.

### Reports:

#### Watershed Coordinator Updates:

- The Village of Kirkland and the City of Genoa have adopted the Central South Branch of the Kishwaukee River Watershed-based plan. We are hoping the Village of Kingston and DeKalb County will adopt the plan by late winter.
- We anticipate an announcement from IEPA regarding the grant application for the Somonauk Creek Watershed within the next couple of months. If the grant were awarded it would probably start in the spring of 2026 and last for about 18 months.

#### DeKalb County Watersheds Council Outreach/Marketing Committee

- Beth Prestegaard reported that several members met with representatives from the City of Genoa to discuss opportunities to work together to promote watershed implementation through education and outreach of the community's Stakeholders. The city was very responsive to the ideas, and the Outreach/Marketing Committee will continue to follow through with moving these ideas forward.

#### Northern Illinois University

- Matt Deitch reported that he is working with staff and students to identify water quality sampling areas in the Somonauk Creek Watershed. Matt will provide more updates on this at our next meeting. Matt also mentioned that they would like to share some

# DeKalb County Watersheds Council

## Meeting Minutes

---



results of the data that has been collected over the last 4 or 5 years and the work they are doing to help format the information and make it more user-friendly.

- NIU has created an Advisory Board for a new project on campus. Working with the City of DeKalb, NIU is proposing to convert a large, grassed area on the east side of campus commonly referred to as the “North 40” to a prairie. Still maintaining an area for the NIU band to practice and open space for tents etc. for special events. Promotion and informational meetings will be held this spring with work beginning in the fall of 2026.
- Matt also mentioned that there may be a possibility of working with the College of Business at NIU to help connect the contents of the watershed plans more broadly to the communities. Usually, this group works with small business operations but sometimes they will work for nonprofits as well. This may provide an opportunity to help achieve our goals.

### City of Sycamore

- Matt Anderson is leaving the City of Sycamore and moving to the City of DeKalb to take on a new role. It is the hope of this committee that Matt can continue and represent the City of DeKalb at future meetings.

### DeKalb County Community Foundation

- Jolene Willis introduced Kyle White as the new Community Engagement Director for the DCCF. Kyle will be participating in our meetings moving forward.
- Jolene also reminded the group that the Community Needs Grant applications were now available for capital items up to \$20,000.00 another opportunity will occur this fall.

**APPROVAL OF THE REPORTS:** Anita Zurbrugg moved to approve the reports. Kris Aves seconded the motion, motion carried.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

### ACTION ITEMS:

1. **Establish Action Items from the City of Genoa Meeting:** The Council fully supports the efforts to work with the City of Genoa. Potential projects discussed were:
  - Inserts into the City of Genoa March Newsletter
  - Provide Watershed Wednesday info to the city
  - Get involved with the Local Organizations Meeting
  - Look for potential rainscaping projects in the Genoa area

# DeKalb County Watersheds Council

## Meeting Minutes

---



- Work with the Genoa Chamber of Commerce- Home and Business Expo
- Rain Barrel Sale with the Genoa-Kingston FFA Chapter
- The Inventors Lab
- Genoa-Kingston School District's science classes
- Community Stewardship Program – U of I Extension
- Involve the Village of Kingston – Lana Haines Helping Hands Newsletter

### **2. Determine what follow-up actions can be taken coming out of the Watershed Stewardship for Leaders Program:**

- There is an opportunity to establish some working groups, especially those that look at water quantity and how our county can take advantage of the work being done in McHenry and Boone Counties regarding 3-D mapping of the aquifers. Should DeKalb County be looking at this especially if growth and development is challenging our water resources?

### **Adjournment and Next Meeting Date:**

Next meeting date is April 1, 2026 at 3 p.m. DeKalb County Farm Bureau

Beth Prestegaard moved to adjourn the meeting, meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.