

**Minutes**  
**Lake Decatur RCPP**  
**Farmer Board Meeting**  
**LOCATION: City of Decatur South Water Treatment Plant**  
**1155 S. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. Decatur, IL 62521**  
**1/11/2024, 9:00am to 12:00pm**

**Meeting Facilitator:** NAME

**Meeting Notetaker:** Ben Harbaugh

**Attendees:** NAME (Organization or Role)

Name	Organization or Role
Frank Rademacher	The Nature Conservancy
Eric Miller	Farmer
Haley Pyatt	Farm Manager
Phil Julius	Macon County Conservation District
Quint Shambaugh	Pinion Advisory
Cody White	Farmer
Jean Brokish	AFT
Ben Harbaugh	AFT
Jennifer Gunter	City of Decatur
Jeff Boeckler	Northwater Consulting
Shane Ravellette	City of Decatur

**Meeting Minutes**

No. / Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
1) Old business	a. <b>None</b>	

<p>II) New Business</p>	<p>Agreements &amp; Scope of Work:</p> <p><b>Roles of the Farmer Board:</b></p> <p>The main concern is that farmers and landowners do not want to work with NRCS directly. This group will serve as the middle man. 3 Key roles: 1. Attend meetings and provide advice, 2. Direct outreach to farmers to get them interested in the program. 3. Mentoring farmers.</p> <p>Upcoming meeting dates: Feb 8th board member meeting planned. March 7th another meeting planned. Go over strategy. April 11th. July 11th meeting before farmers plant cover crops. Dec. 11th.</p> <p><b>Priority Areas:</b></p> <p>If someone in the group has experience with certain practices, then we can coordinate with that person. We can add expertise info on “promo” sheet for contact information. Not just board members but others outside this group that have experience.</p> <p>Create a list of people making contributions, or a partner list. We can continue to expand this list if you know of someone who fits the description.</p> <p>Outreach will start organically and possibly transitioning to assigning a sub watershed to each member</p> <p>How should we coordinate amongst the group? A google sheet could work.</p>	<p>March 7<sup>th</sup>- Review outreach strategy</p> <p>Create a google spreadsheet for coordination – send out on Fridays</p> <p>Jeff has created a Dropbox.</p> <p>Jeff will finish Mindsalt setup (assign managers to board members) Will create an AFT section. Jean/Shelby are managers.</p> <p>Quint will get some data for the watershed map.</p> <p>Frank will provide AFT with Lake Decatur Guides on: NMP, Tillage, Cover Crop and Program Guide.</p> <p>Everyone else will start reaching out to farmers.</p> <p>AFT will compile notes and send out calendar invites.</p>
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An activity spreadsheet should be shared on Fridays for board members. The map will also be updated to show landowner enrollment.

**Outreach Material:**

The RCPP sign up portal was created Jan. 8th Taking applications now. We can assist signing farmers up, they can call Jen and she can print applications for them. Deadline for accepting applications is March 28th Contracts will be active for crop year 2025.. Technical service providers will be working for farmers by 2025.

A minimum of 2-year contract and max of 5 year. Make the NRCS estimates cheat sheet public facing

If questions come up about certain practices i.e. bioreactors, you can send them to Jeff and Jen

Quint can respond to TSP questions.

- a. **Election of Officers** – Chairman and Vice Chair: Cody White (Chairman) Tony Stierwalt (Vice Chair) The Chair and Vice Chair will represent this group to the public. It is important that producers are the point of contact for farmers interested in the program.
- b. **Time tracking software**- Mindsalt. Board members will track time spent conducting outreach with this software. Managers can track and approve the time spent.
- c. **RCPP Next steps**- landowner outreach, program promotion, priority fields, USDA sign-up: There is a link on the farm raise site to show where your farm is located in the watershed


Important Links <https://theswamm.com/catalogue/#/geostory/794>  
<https://www.farmraise.com/lake-decatur-watershed>

**Next meeting date:** February 8, 2024 9:00am-12:00pm  
City of Decatur South Water Treatment Plant  
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Backburner / topics for next meeting:

- I. Initial outreach to farm groups and farm managers
  - a. Progress made
  - b. Initial feedback
- II. Progress on list creation
  - a. Farm groups and farm managers
  - b. TSP's or people with related expertise
- III. Information needs
  - a. Harvestable perennial grasses
  - b. Hemp practices
- IV. Mindsalt
  - a. Has everyone created an account?
  - b. Any issues with login/understanding how it works?

