

Minutes
Lake Decatur RCPP
Farmer Board Meeting
1155 S Martin Luther King Jr Dr, Decatur, IL 62521
March 7, 2024 9:00a.m-11:00a.m

Meeting Facilitator: Jennifer Gunter

Meeting Notetaker: Ben Harbaugh

Attendees:

Name	Organization or Role
Todd Wibben	FS
Jean Brokish	AFT
Ben Harbaugh	AFT
Quint Schambaugh	Pinion Global
Shane Ravellette	City of Decatur
Jeff Boeckler	Northwater Consulting
Jen Gunter	City of Decatur
Phil Julius	Macon County Conservation District

Meeting Minutes

No. / Agenda Item	Discussion	Actions
Progress on Outreach	<p>20-30 applicants so far. We are expecting over 10,000 acres enrolled. Jennifer turned in the first round of apps.</p> <p>Information needed on the spread sheet for efficiency- farm, track number, practice and 24-28 rotation.</p> <p>Is the CSP interview supplemental information packet necessary?</p>	<p>Jeff and Jennifer need to complete crop rotation for 2024-2028. The CSP questionnaire also needs to be filled out.</p> <p>Jen will share spreadsheet template.</p> <p>Jeff will ask NRCS if CSP interview supplemental info is needed.</p>

<p>Progress on contact information on 20 high profile farms</p>	<p>Advanced Ag wants to work with their client on signup.</p> <p>Todd has most of the farmers identified in the high priority map. Did not provide exact number.</p> <p>Haley and Jeff have not heard back yet from farmers they reached out to.</p>	<p>Quint will reiterate the importance of additionality with practices. (waterway, buffer, etc.).</p> <p>Board members should slow down on non-priority watershed farmers. Still take them but put them in for next year.</p>
<p>DTN Data</p>	<p>DTN is not budging on price for farm data.</p>	<p>AFT data is available if needed but focus on high priority fields first.</p>
<p>Implement for the donated tractor</p>	<p>FS could lease the tractor for strip-till deep placement of fertilizer.</p> <p>Another idea is to lease it out for \$/hr and bring that money back into the program.</p>	<p>Todd to update the group after his meeting with FS management.</p> <p>Jeff will check with Sloan about leasing the tractor.</p>

Next meeting date: April 11, 2024

Backburner / topics for next meeting:

- Start discussion on how we promote or deal with discounts and stackable incentives.
- How do we continue to promote during the summer
- Add review action items from previous meeting to agenda.
- Creation of TSP List?

Next Meeting Agenda:

- I. Progress on action items
 - a. Refer to previous meeting minutes
- II. Progress on RCPP sign up
 - a. Any issues we should address
- III. How should we promote discounts and stackable incentives
- IV. How should we promote RCPP during the summer
- V. Creation of TSP List?

Discussion:

RCPP signup is going well. We have received a lot of applicants. Making the deadline will be tight. We have a soft deadline for application submission by March 22- hard deadline March 27

Farmers are applying for all practices, a lot of them are nutrient management plans, reduced till, cover crops and perennial grasses. 100 acres in perennial grasses.

Jennifer had a call with NRCS- farmers can qualify for RCPP on ground with CRP if they don't double up on practice.

Application rollover occurs if they are approved this year. They could be approved the next year.

Question about farmers in Champaign County- Will not be placed high due to location. Jeff had submitted questions about ranking- NRCS will be approving applications.

If people have been in a program for 5 years, they will need new resource concerns to qualify for RCPP.

Workflow after March 27th – Ranking begins once all applications are in. The process is done by May 31st, then applications are awarded around middle June. When the contract is signed the planning can begin.

Board members do not need to worry about going over budget for charged hours. The yearly budget is estimated and is flexible. Jeff doesn't think this will be an issue.

Board members should not back off on signing up high priority fields, regardless of the time frame.

Growers have some nutrient management concerns. They are interested in nutrient management incentive if doing other practices to offset the nitrogen penalty and possible insecticide costs associated with cover crops.

We are not accepting applications on hemp this year. Maybe 2025.

When talking about farmer hesitation, a concern that these programs may not cover the total cost and makes people hesitant. Low corn prices may get people to seek out additional income through these practices.