

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING  
EPWORTH IA  
February 14, 2022

Call Meeting to Order: The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Demmer at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom on February 14, 2022. Those present included Staff: Theresa Weiss, Colleen Siefken, Zach Timm & Eric Schmechel; Commissioners: Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Ronald Lindblom, John Smith & Mike Freiburger; Assistant Commissioner: Dave Ruden; Guest: Harley Pothoff.

Adopt Agenda: The following additions were added:

Maquoketa River WMA water sampling funds request.

22-21 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the agenda with addition. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Demmer called for a discussion of the January 10, 2022 organizational and regular monthly meeting minutes.

22-22 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

FARMS Program Summary: Current **FARMS '21** Account information:

<b>Program</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Balance</b>
REAPP	\$ 0.00	Cost Share	\$ 0.00
REAPF/NG	\$ 12,048.00		

Cost Share Priorities: Update the windbreak item to add \$1,600 cap per applicant. Tile, intakes/outlets and fabrics do not have enough completed practice cost information to justify increases.

22-23 Motion made by Schmitt to approve our cost share priorities with above written addition. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

REAP Supplemental Received: District has received supplemental funding to approve the Haugen and Tobin forestry projects.

Cost Share Applications & Cost Share Cancellation: Demmer reviewed the following:

*IFIP*

None

*REAP*

Heather Haugen, #97129, 21.5 acres of Forest Stand Improvement, \$2,580 cost share amount

Matthew Tobin, #96771, 13.2 acres tree/shrub establishment with woody plant competition,

\$9,900.00 cost share amount

*Cancellation*

Siefken has contacted Nick Wegmann, #94814, 8 times regarding need to bring in cover crop bills through email, phone and text. Said he would, but he hasn't. Was told we would cancel application if paperwork wasn't dropped off this past weekend (2/4-6/22).

22-24 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the REAP applications and cancel the Wegmann application. Motion seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Cost Share Certifications: Demmer reviewed the following:

Mark Brimeyer, #92063, \$3,250 cost share amount

22-25 Motion made by Smith to approve the cost share certifications. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried.

Watershed Project Update:

Budget review with BOS on January 26<sup>th</sup>, \$75,000 Buffer Strip proposal was approved along with \$390,000 total budget to fund SWOP, Buffer Strips, Truterra and Eco Services program.

Watershed Roundtable Sessions 2<sup>nd</sup> session held last week. About 12 attending.

Public Meeting held regarding WFPO Watershed Plan in both Asbury and Dyersville.

28E Agreement updating between SWCD & Asbury. Approved by partners. It was noted the commencement year, funds table, a year and insertion of SWCD Chairperson name needed to be corrected/added.

Intern proposal was reviewed. IPERS question was answered. Will get the word out yet this week and start advertising.

28E Yearly Watershed Project Review with BOS to be scheduled. Board preferred 3/22 meeting date with 4-6 p.m. time slot.

22-26 Motion made by Schmitt to approve 28E agreement as amended. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

22-27 Motion made by Lindblom to approve the intern request. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

1M/Finance:

- January Bank Statement & Treasurer reports were reviewed. Additions were made to the Vendor Bills Submitted.

- 1M Expense Voucher in the amount of \$279.69 to cover commissioner expense and office expense.

22-28 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the January Treasurer Report. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

22-29 Motion made by Lindblom to approve the Expense Report. Motion seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence Received:

- Iowa Environmental Farm Leader open for nominations through May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- New State Technician has been hired. Currently going through federal background check.

When approved we will be given a start date.

- CDI Connections Newsletter (January)
- February '22 Kozak Update

- IDALS Summer Construction Incentive – to assist with getting structural practices completed a \$200 per acre incentive is available for those wishing to construct during the June 15 – October 15<sup>th</sup> time period. Siefken will contact those eligible to see if interested.

- IDALS Buffer Initiative – funding has been increased in these cost share accounts. Certain CRP practices are eligible for the one time, upfront incentives.

- CDI Spring Regional Meeting – to be held on March 15<sup>th</sup> from 10-2 at the Waverly Civic Center. Attendees will be required to wear a mask and registration/meal will be \$25 a person. Colleen will make reservations for those wanting to attend. Jack, Jeff and Mike are interested at this point. Please let Colleen know by Friday, 18<sup>th</sup> who would like to attend. Reservations are due by 2/21/22.

- Resolution Process – Due April 1<sup>st</sup> to CDI. Board suggested perhaps a resolution to upgrade the wages of the starting state techs. Siefken will talk with IDALS to see if this would be appropriate as they are also trying to upgrade the position.

Slough Bill Updates: It was noted that there are 6 of the renewals in question at this time. Three have CRP/CSP enrollment on them and would be ineligible. Others have trees growing in the open prairie areas and we are requesting verification if those applications could be approved for both open prairie and forest covers.

22-30 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the Slough Bill applicants as presented and those questionable when granted approval by Brian Preston. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Meeting Updates:

CCWMA – Recent appointment of officers, technically all funding is obligated or scheduled to be obligated and will begin looking for additional funds, City of Peosta project is being worked upon, Plaza 20 project is in the future.

#### Personnel Updates:

State Technician – offer has been made.

NACD 5<sup>th</sup> round TA Grants – SWCD will be applying

NACD Employee Vacancy Announcement – Personnel committee has reviewed the advertisement. Committee is requesting the approval for the following: \$15/hr wage, 32-40 hours week, State Holidays after 3 months, 1 week PTO after 6 months, 2 week advertising period – hopefully start advertise this Friday, spend up to \$300 in advertising for position (Eastern Iowa Shopper News, accessdubuquejobs.com, Iowa Workforce Development).

22-31 Motion made by Smith to approve recommendations from Personnel Committee and begin advertising for NACD employee. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

#### NRCS Updates: Weiss reported the following:

- 15 preapproved EQIP applications.

- 1 CSP application
- General CRP signup going on.
- Former SC Mike Henderson is new State Resource Conservationist in Iowa.

Being no further business to discuss, Demmer requested a motion to adjourn.

22-32 Motion made by Freiburger to adjourn. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, **March 14, 2022** at **6:30 p.m.** at a location to be announced.

Wayne Demmer      3/14/22  
Chairperson                      Date

Collin Sullivan      2/16/22  
Secretary                      Date