

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

June 6, 2024

1225 Seippel Road, Dubuque IA 52002

Call Meeting to Order: The work session meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Demmer at 10:10 a.m. in person at the Dubuque County offices in Dubuque, IA. Those present included Staff: Bill Meyer, Helen Backes CA, Eric Schmechel, Allisen Freihage, John Sewell & Scott Hendricks. Commissioners: Wayne Demmer, Mike Freiburger, Jeff Schmitt & Jack Smith. Guests: Ed Raber.

Adopt Agenda:

The agenda was approved as presented. Demmer requested a motion to approve the agenda.

24-63 Motion was made by Freiburger to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Projects Update:

- RCPP subaward Agreement – Schmechel discussed the RCPP subaward agreement. Schmechel reviewed statement of work and budget. The SWCD's contribution for the proposal is \$515,265 for 5 years. Of that, \$445,265 will be in-kind for employee time. Cash contributions include \$40,000 for water monitoring data analysis, spent equally over the 5 years for \$8,000 annually and \$30,000 for outreach activities and farmer led field days, spent over the 5 years for \$6,000 annually. In-kind contributions of employee time will be tracked through timesheets and payroll and submitted to Sand County Foundation.

24-64 Demmer requested a motion to approve the submission of the RCPP Subaward Agreement. Motion was made by Freiburger with motion seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

RFP Drone Seeding Update:

- New RFPs created for drone operators and seed dealers due to changes in the agreement with Dubuque County and Sandy County Foundation (SCF). SCF will hire the drone operators and seed dealers and make all payments directly to them. The County has been divided into 3 regions for drone operators. Inquiry was made to generate a county map which included all cover crop acres (NRCS, State Cost-Share, and Drone Seeding) to examine where cover crops are located within the County for future water sampling efforts.

Sensitive Land Discussion:

- Sewell introduced a variety of maps of possible sensitive areas within the County. Correlations were made between KARST and cold-water stream locations. A map of wells located within the County was discussed. Sewell will forward the maps to attendees.

Stormwater/Comprehensive (UDC) Ordinance Update:

- Ed Raber gave an update on the Dubuque County Comprehensive Land Use Ordinance - Unified Document Code. The code will contain guiding principles for land use. It is hoped to begin work on ordinance/code in 2025 with county supervisors and multiple departments. The hope would be to update the stormwater ordinance during this UDC development.

Commissioner/Opening Recruitment Discussion:

- Discussion by attendees on filling the open commissioner position due to Ron Lindblom's resignation. There are 3 individuals interested in filling the short-term commissioner position. A brief dialogue between attendees was made regarding an Assistant Commissioner. Backes will develop a Commissioner Candidate Profile for the current candidates to fill out and submit to the State office for selection of a replacement. The Profile will be given to all future candidates to submit for the media prior to elections to inform and promote SWCD and its mission statement.

NRCS IPC Grant:

- IPC Grant – Update was given by Schmechel. Currently the Watershed is in negotiations with NRCS. Freihage submitted the grant in early May for \$950,000.

Watershed Monitoring Equipment:

- Sewell presented new water monitoring equipment the Watershed would purchase for the FY25. Discussion was held on equipment and testing results.
- 24-65** Demmer requested a motion to approve \$8000/yearly to purchase new equipment for water monitoring process and results. Motion was made by Schmitt. Motion was seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Updated 28e Agreement Timeframe:

- Schmechel stated we are currently in year 5 of 7-year 28e Agreement. Schmechel will review and update the agreement with an extension for 3 more years.

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

24-66 Motion made by Freiburger to adjourn. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m.

The next meeting tentatively to be held on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 1:30 p.m.** at the district office in Epworth.

Chairperson

Date

Secretary

Date