

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

210 Bierman Road, Epworth, IA 52045-9529

March 14, 2023

Call Meeting to Order: The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Demmer at 1:32 p.m. via Zoom and in person at the District office in Epworth, IA on March 14, 2023. Those present included Staff: Bill Meyer (Acting DC), Sarah Kelchen (Acting CA), Eric Schmechel, Scott Hendricks; Commissioners: Wayne Demmer, Jack Smith, Jeff Schmitt & Ron Lindblom. Assistant Commissioner: Dave Ruden. Commissioner Mike Freiburger joined via Zoom.

Adopt Agenda: The following additions were added:

- Expense from Woodward Community Media \$178.00
- Expense from Eric Schmechel for \$9.99 March Icloud fee
- CRP Conservation Plan

23-26 Motion was made by Schmitt to approve the agenda as with additions. Motion was seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Demmer called for a discussion of the minutes from the regular meeting held February 13, 2023.

23-27 Motion made by Smith to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held February 13, 2023. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

FARMS Program Summary: Current **FARMS '23** Account information:

Program	Balance	Program	Balance
REAPP	\$ 0.00	Cost Share	\$2125.00
REAPF/NG	\$ 10,078.64		

Cost Share Application:

None

Cost Share Cancellations:

None

Cost Share Certifications & Maintenance Agreements:

None

Conservation Plan

1 CRP Conservation Plan, CP43

(Board voted 6-13-22, motion #22-72 to not sign CRP Conservation Plans)

Watershed Project Update:

- Semiannual 28E meeting March 29, 2023 4-6pm at the Mines of Spain.
- April 5th public input meeting WFPO
- June 15th field day. – May change the date. Still looking for a host.
- Watershed signs – finished location list. Will work with County to get installed
- Watershed apparel – Low on t-shirts and hats. Discussed options for next order.
- Discussed having the Conservation Trailer from Iowa Learning Farms/Water Rocks! at the Dubuque County Fair and other events or field days.

Finance:

- February TR, Bank Statement & bills.

Demmer called for discussion of the February TR, bank statement & bills listed.

23-28 Motion made by Smith to approve the February TR, bank statement & bills listed on the TR. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- Demmer called for discussion of payment of additional bills presented.

23-29 Motion made by Lindblom to approve the payment of additional bills presented for Woodward Community Media & Eric Schmechel. Motion seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

- Reimbursement request to IDALS for the NACD employee.

Demmer called for discussion of the reimbursement request to IDALS for the NACD employee.

23-30 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the reimbursement request to IDALS for the NACD employee. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

- Donations for Conservation Day September 17, 2023

Demmer called for discussion of request for donations for the Conservation Day September 17, 2023 to be received and disbursed through the Districts checking account.

23-31 Motion made by Smith to approve the for donations for the Conservation Day on September 17, 2023 to be received and disbursed through the Districts checking account. Motion was seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence Received:

- CDI Scholarship winner is Adam Knepper. Knepper has been notified and Kelchen submitted to CDI Regional Director.
- CDI Resolutions deadline April 1st
- February Connections
- Dubuque Cty Fair Booth

Demmer called for discussion of having a booth at the Dubuque County Fair again this year.

23-32 Motion made by Schmitt to approve having a booth at the Dubuque County Fair and payment of the booth fee of \$400.00. Motion was seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

- 2023 Awards information reviewed. Most due 6/9. Cons. Farmer of the Year due to SWCD by 5/12, AO by 5/26.
- 2023 Environmental Leader of the Year nominations due May 1, 2023
- 2023 Iowa Conservation Farmer of the Year nominations due May 12, 2023
- Isolved payroll price increase 7% effective 4/1/23
- Census – Census for District has been requested a couple of times. Ruden to look over and possibly complete
- February Talking Points from Susan Kozak and reports

Meeting Updates:

- MRWMA meeting on 3/1/23. New executive board elected. Erin's position funded for another year.
- Demmer, Freiburger & Harley Pothoff attended the CDI Regional meeting on 3/7/23. A lot of good discussions.

Slough Bill

- 1 additional Slough Bill application received. Assessors' office missed sending this one out initially.

Demmer called for discussion of/or motion to approve Slough Bill application.

23-33 Motion made by Schmitt to approve 1 Slough Bill application. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion approved unanimously.

Personnel Updates:

- NACD vacancy. 7 applications received. Everyone needs to review and let Kelchen know their ranking so we can decide who to interview.

Ruden exited the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

NRCS Updates:

Meyer gave an update on NRCS happenings. EQIP/CSP first round selctions were made. Some backed out from pursuing any further. IRA money channeling to CSP. Will need to meet 2 resource concerns. General CRP signup was announced. Climate Smart Festival on 4/18/23 at Loras College. Will have the rainfall simulator at the Mississippi River Muesum for Earth Day event 4/22/23.

Other Business:

- Facebook page request

Alycia Willenbring has asked if the SWCD has a Facebook page or if they are willing to create one to share events. Specifically, she would like to be able to create an event page for the Conservation Day in September. Group consensus is that would be ok. Might save that project for the new CA unless it gets too close to her event. In that case Kelchen will work with Willenbring to get one created and then hand over the administrative roles to the next CA.

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

23-34 Motion made by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 1:30 pm.** at the district office.

Chairperson

Date

Secretary

Date