

MINUTES OF THE DUBUQUE SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
EPWORTH IA
April 12, 2021

Call Meeting to Order: The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Melvin Wilgenbusch at 6:03 p.m. on the ZOOM platform on April 12, 2021. Those present included Staff: Theresa Weiss, Colleen Siefken & Eric Schmechel; Commissioners: Melvin Wilgenbusch, Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Ron Lindblom & Mike Freiburger; Assistant Commissioner: Dave Ruden; Guests: Claire Carlson – CDI, Harley Pothoff – BOS.

Adopt Agenda: Being no additions or changes, the agenda was approved as presented:

21-38 Motion made by Demmer to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Wilgenbusch called for a discussion of the March 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

21-39 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Program	Balance	Program	Balance
REAPP	\$ 0.00	REAPF/NG	\$ 0.00
Cost Share	\$ 2,150.50		

Soil & Water Resource Conservation Plan (SWRCP) Approval: Plan has been approved by the State Committee. The cover page and signature sheet have been sent to the county recorder's office for recording.

WQI No-Till applications: WQI email received allowing CAs to approve No-Till/Strip-Till applications as funding is available. The following have been funded during the month for spring application:

Clint Dietz, 135 acre no-till, \$1,350 cost share
Tom Burlage, 160 ac no-till, \$1,600 cost share

Cost Share Applications:

Steven Friedmann, #89805, .4 ac waterway, \$580.72 cost share
Randy Pancratz, #90196, 1.4 ac field border, \$420.00 cost share

21-40 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the cost share applications. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

1M/Finance:

- March Bank Statement & Treasurer reports were reviewed.
- Additional Bills (not listed on Treasurer's report) to be approved this meeting:
 - Eric Schmechel - #3163 – 112.81, #3163 - \$35.82, #3165 – 26.00 – supplies
 - Envision Sports - #3161 - \$32.00 Commissioner Shirt
 - Dbq Co Recorder - #3162 - \$12.00 – SWRCP Recording Fee

21-41 Motion made by Demmer to approve the March Treasurer Reports and additional bills payment. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence Received:

- FARMS Audit – 5 project files were forwarded to IDALS per annual audit request
- CDI Connections Newsletter (March) – distributed to Board 3/25/21.
- \$1,000 Father Norman White Memorial Scholarship
 - Reminder to review applicants and email 1st & 2nd choice to Colleen**
- Soil Conservation Week – April 25-5/2/21. Siefken noted theme change when comparing Iowa's and NACD's themes. Proclamation will be sent to BOS and City of Dubuque.

Watershed Project Report: UD has conducted first stream sampling of approximately 50 sites. Awaiting analysis. Schmechel requested approval of the \$11,512 water sampling proposal with the UD presented at the February meeting. Four social media proposals are still being considered. Lindblom questioned possibility of paying per post made and not paying a monthly flat fee. Most recent contact has been with company that is working with IDALS and the Racoon Creek Watershed. There is a wait list for both the SWOF and TruTerra projects. Freiburger will contact IDALS to see if they would allow Dubuque to participate in their SWOF program. Supervisors funded projects last week. City of Dubuque is moving ahead with the Billboards – Roots in the Ground, Year Round is the theme. Board discussed Conservation Awards and it was noted that farmers will have to have a 75+ score in TruTerra, apply for the program and agree to assist the District with an outreach activities. Monetary amount of award was discussed.

21-42 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the UD water sampling proposal. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

21-43 Motion made by Lindblom to approve up to 4 conservation awards at a maximum of \$2,000 each. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Updates:

CCWMA meets Wednesday, April 14th. April 24th National Mississippi River Museum will be hosting a Party 4 the Planets. Neil Sass is proposed to be there with the Soil Health trailer and tunnel. 5/21 Field day from 1-3/4 at Tim Daly's – sponsored by Watershed Project. Loras College and National Mississippi River Museum hope to bring a busload of people to the event.

Personnel Updates:

Quarterly reports from Timm & Wiley were reviewed. Board enjoyed the updates and requested they continue. Siefken noted letters were sent to Susan Kozak, Division Director and Shawn Dettmann, NRCS – ASC-FO regarding the need of a technician in the office.

NRCS Updates: Weiss reported the following:

- General CRP has been extended indefinitely.
- National problem with EQIP/CSP ranking has been corrected and all applications have been reranked. Currently awaiting word on which projects will be approved.
- Office staffing has progressed to allowing 50% of the staff in the office and one visitor with an appointment per latest guidance.
- Julie Hoefler, SC has been assigned to Jones County for month of April to assist with workload while DC is on leave.

Eco-System Database: Lindblom discussed creation of a possible eco-system database. He has been discussing the matter with Gina Bell with the City of Dubuque’s Sustainability Dept. It was wondered if the Houston report might be of any use or Lidar maps. Lindblom noted that this would be a long term project. Freiburger mentioned that the eco-system is looked at when designing a project. Schmitt mentioned the need to concentrate on what we are doing and not take on another project at this time due to minimal staff and lots of work already assigned to the staff. Demmer and Freiburger agreed. Schmechel mentioned that perhaps this could be an ongoing project for interns and offered to further discuss with Lindblom.

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

21-44 Motion made by Freiburger to adjourn. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **May 17, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.** for the unforeseeable future on the ZOOM platform.

Melvin Wilgenbusch
Chairperson _____ Date

Cedric Sulfer 4/14/21
Secretary _____ Date

