

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER  
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING  
 EPWORTH IA  
 September 12, 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 6:33 p.m. via Zoom and in person at the District office in Epworth, IA on September 12, 2022. Those present included Staff: Theresa Weiss, Colleen Siefken, Eric Schmechel, Zach Timm; Commissioners: Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Ron Lindblom & Mike Freiburger; Assistant Commissioner: Dave Ruden.

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

22-95 Motion was made by Schmitt to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Demmer called for a discussion of the August 8, 2022 monthly meeting minutes.

22-96 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Program	Balance	Program	Balance
REAPP	\$ 3,220.60	Cost Share	\$ 80,490.00
REAPF/NG	\$ 58.04		

WQI Applicant Approvals:

Date Printed: September 13, 2022

**WQI Approval 8/11/22 thru 9/12/22**

District	Program	Practice ID	Applicant	Practice	Amount Obligated	Board Approval Date	Units Installed	Units
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104786	JPT INC	Cover Crop	\$2,400.00	9/12/2022	160	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104720	TIMOTHY STEFFEN	Cover Crop	\$4,000.00	9/9/2022	160	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104700	NICHOLAS GAUL	Cover Crop	\$525.00	9/9/2022	35	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104711	DANIEL WEST	No-Till	\$1,600.00	9/8/2022	160	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104708	DANIEL WEST	Cover Crop	\$1,125.00	9/8/2022	75	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104583	R & R COOK FARMS LLC	Cover Crop	\$2,400.00	9/7/2022	160	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104637	MARISSA WALDO	Cover Crop	\$1,950.00	9/7/2022	130	Acre(s)

DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104593	MATTHEW KUTSCH	Cover Crop	\$3,700.00	9/7/2022	148	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104556	GERALD WUCHTER	Cover Crop	\$855.00	9/6/2022	57	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104502	Robert Donovan	Cover Crop	\$1,950.00	9/2/2022	78	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104429	THIER FARMS INC	Cover Crop	\$2,400.00	9/1/2022	160	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104345	TARA LYNCH	Cover Crop	\$1,000.00	8/30/2022	40	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104161	DANIEL LINK	Cover Crop	\$2,400.00	8/29/2022	160	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104056	AMBROSE HEISLER	Cover Crop	\$600.00	8/25/2022	40	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	104042	Christopher Krapfl	Cover Crop	\$2,000.00	8/25/2022	80	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103745	RONALD WEBER	Cover Crop	\$2,400.00	8/22/2022	160	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103684	MATTHEW DUPONT	Cover Crop	\$1,275.00	8/19/2022	85	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103668	PETER SCHUELLER	Cover Crop	\$1,500.00	8/18/2022	100	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103611	DENNIS SOPPE	Cover Crop	\$405.00	8/18/2022	27	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103679	David Knapp	Cover Crop	\$850.00	8/18/2022	34	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103519	LLOYD KENNEDY	Cover Crop	\$1,350.00	8/16/2022	90	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103419	MARK GAUL	Cover Crop	\$2,400.00	8/15/2022	160	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103234	Karen Hoffmann	Cover Crop	\$4,000.00	8/11/2022	160	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103229	KEVIN WOLF	Cover Crop	\$1,125.00	8/11/2022	75	Acre(s)
DUBUQUE SWCD	WQI	103194	GREGORY E WILLE	Cover Crop	\$2,400.00	8/11/2022	160	Acre(s)

WQI Procedures allows CA to approve applicants without board approval. To date 136 cover crop applications have been approved on 14,610 acres and \$246,632.15 in cost share has been obligated.

Cost Share Application: None

Cost Share Amendment: None

Cost Share Certifications:

Carlton Busch, #98396, \$20,214.07 cost share  
 Jason Wolfe, #100141, \$2,334.00 cost share  
 Susan Hellert, #96416, \$5,792.00 cost share

22-97 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the Certifications. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Cost Share Maintenance Agreements:

None

Watershed Project Update:

SWCS Denver Conference Recap – Large conference, good, many topics on regenerative ag, almost too much to try and see. Wouldn't travel that far again. Next year in Iowa.

Field Day – August 27<sup>th</sup> at Eric Miller's. 140 registered, great turnout, thought perhaps 200 attended, Corn Grower's sponsored lunch, good speakers, would like to see more time spent in field and perhaps 60" corn rows closer to event. Will try a Friday field day next year and perhaps focus around supper hour. Perhaps only 1 speaker and a farmer panel. Board noted need to not exclude dairy farmers.

Iowa Water Conference will be held at the Grand River Center on September 27-29. Schmechel will be speaker and hosting field trip.

September 21 Watershed fall review (4-6 p.m. Mines of Spain) is proposed to be more of a roundtable discussion. Sharing ideas for the future. Spring meeting will be more of a formal event.

SILT Update - \$100 sponsor – Daryl Parker has been hired by SILT. Schmechel provided information during the month on a \$100 partnership with Project Rooted for The Rooted Table, an annual affair that brings the community together to enjoy a meal. Schmechel ended up ill and couldn't attend. He hasn't received an invoice for the sponsorship.

Outreach Service Contract – formal contract was reviewed and signed during the month with commissioner email approval. Schmechel has created a timeframe of work to be accomplished and Brooke and Trevor have begun work. District will be billed monthly \$2,041.67.

ESRI ArcGIS Subscription – Additional ArcGIS license desired for Watershed staff. \$1,500 setup fee and \$300 annual fee.

Phone Upgrade – Schmechel asked for consideration of new policy to allow phone upgrades every two years to watershed team members. Schmechel and Wiley use their SWCD phone also as their personal phone (desire not to carry two phones). Batteries wear down and damage can occur. Board was asked to consider a \$450 allowance for a phone upgrade every two years. Any phone upgrade above that amount would be at the employee's expense. It was noted that the phone is the property of the district.

22-98 Motion to approve the additional ESRI ArcGIS subscription was made by Freiburger. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

22-99 Motion to approve the Outreach Service Contract was made by Freiburger. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

22-100 Motion to approve the phone upgrade every 2 years was made by Freiburger. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

22-101 Motion to approve the \$100 SILT sponsorship was approved by Freiburger. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance:

August Bank Statement & Treasurer reports were reviewed.

\$2,750 1M Allocation has been received to pay commissioner travel expense, office supplies and postage for the upcoming FY.

Siefken noted that CDI dues in the amount of \$850 should be paid by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

22-102 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the August Treasurer Report and all bills listed on the Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

22-103 Motion made by Freiburger to pay the \$850 CDI dues. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Correspondence Received:

Iowa GovConnections Registered Responsible Parties – In August concerns with listing social security numbers in the system was voiced. Dan Hawkins replied that response from Iowa GovConnections was that all state employees SS# is already in the system and Iowa taxpayer social security numbers are also there. Siefken and Lindblom have registered in the system.

August '22 Kozak Update

CDI Survey – board was asked to complete a survey regarding Annual Conference participation. Siefken will forward results to CDI.

#### Meeting Updates:

Demmer attended Annual Commissioner Conference. Good overall, attendance (79?) could have been better, time could have been better utilized to fill gaps between speakers (during meal time). Concerns were voiced in followup survey to CDI.

#### Personnel Updates:

Megan is pregnant and plans on taking 2 months off (November/December).

Siefken and Weiss announced they will be retiring in January. Exact dates aren't known at this time. Siefken is working with Megan re filling the CA position.

#### NRCS Updates:

The EQIP Local Work Group needs to review watersheds and resource concerns by 9/23. Siefken presented a map of current EQIP applications to show that there is no hot-spot within the county with more applications than other areas. Board decided to maintain the same priorities as last year as these areas were determined by the Houston Engineering criteria to have the highest need for work. Weiss also mentioned that we are no longer able to pick which practices we wish to cost share on. Thus, spring development and wells will now be eligible.

#### General Discussion:

October 10<sup>th</sup> is a federal holiday – do we wish to move our meeting as Weiss cannot attend? Meeting will remain on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Freiburger mentioned the possibility of renaming the Father Norman White Memorial Scholarship (or a portion of the scholarship) in honor of LeRoy Peterson, recently deceased federal technician. Board was receptive. Followup discussion needs to be held.


National Mississippi River Museum will be hosting their Oceanic/Student Conference on Sept 22/23. Presently 3 schools with 60 students are planning on attending. Students will be visiting the Jack Smith farm.

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

22-104 Motion made by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on **Monday, October 10, 2022** at **6:30 p.m.** at the district office.

 10-10-22  
Chairperson Date

 9/14/22  
Secretary Date