

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

210 Bierman Road, Epworth, IA 52045-9529

April 11, 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 1:30 p.m. via Zoom and in person at the District office in Epworth, IA on April 12, 2023. Those present included Staff: Bill Meyer, Sarah Kelchen (Acting CA), Eric Schmechel, Scott Hendricks; Commissioners: Wayne Demmer, Mike Freiburger & Jeff Schmitt. Assistant Commissioner: Dave Ruden.

Adopt Agenda:

The agenda was approved as presented.

23-35 Motion was made by Freiburger to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Demmer called for a discussion of the minutes from the regular meeting held March 14, 2023.

23-36 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held March 14, 2023. Motion seconded by Freiburger. 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:

Demmer called for discussion of FARMS cost share cancellation.

23-37 Motion made by Freiburger to approve FARMS cost share cancellation. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Practice Number	Name	Program	Practice	Amount	Action
105403	Heather Haugen	REAP P	FSI	\$3,180.00	cancel application

Cost Share Certifications & Maintenance Agreements:

None

Conservation Plan

None

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

Finance:

- March TR, Bank Statement & bills.

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

23-38 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the March TR, bank statement & bills listed on the TR. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

*Schmechel & Hendricks joined at 1:45 p.m.

Watershed Project Update:

- June Field Day June 16th 11-2 hosted by Josh Behnke. There will be a lunch and speakers presenting.
- Marketing Materials. Signs are in production, still working on designs for hats/t-shirts and pricing.
- Budget update. Budget was approved by the Supervisors
- Part-Time Urban Conservation Position

Demmer called for discussion of/or motion to approve David Shimek for the part-time Urban Conservation Position.

23-39 Motion made by Freiburger to approve hiring David Shimek effective 4/10/2023 for the part-time Urban Conservation Position. Motion was seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- Dubuque County Conservation Test Plot proposal options were discussed. There is going to be some costs associated with planting this plot.

Demmer called for discussion of costs associated with the Dubuque County Test Plot.

23-40 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the costs associated with the Dubuque County Test Plot. Motion was seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- Schmechel, Meyer, and anyone else interested or available will try to meet with Scott Cagle to discuss RCPP. Trying for 4/27. A work session to discuss further will be hopefully in May.

Correspondence Received:

- CDI Poster Contest due to SWCD April 28, CDI June 23
- 2023 Awards info. – Cons. Farmer of the Yr due to SWCD by May 12, AO May 26, IDALS June 9
- 2023 Environmental Leader nominations due May 1
- 2023 Conservation Farmer of the Year nominations due May 12

Meeting Updates:

No updates

Personnel Updates:

- CA interviews were conducted. Bobby waiting on approval from State Office to make official offer.
- NACD vacancy. Kelchen will check with NACD about a possible extension. Board would like to wait until new CA is going before getting someone to fill this position.

*Schmitt & Hendricks exited the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

NRCS Updates:

Meyer gave an update on NRCS happenings. EQIP/CSP 2nd round ranking due May 5th. Compliance Review letters have been sent out and will be starting soon. Area Office is looking at spring growth for cover crops planted after November 1, 2022.

Other Business:

- Father Norman White Scholarship. Normally that would get sent out in March. Kelchen missed that. Will pass on this for this year and bring it back in 2024.
- Dave Ruden resignation update. Dave has been with the SWCD since around 1999. He has been a tremendous asset and has a great knowledge of the SWCD and its history. He would be willing to stay as an Assistant, maybe not coming to meetings quite as often. He would like someone to take over the Treasurer/online banking role. Demmer will check if anyone else is willing to take this role on.

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

23-41 Motion made by Freiburger to adjourn. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

The next meeting will be tentatively held on **Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 1:30 pm.** at the district office or via teleconference depending on the weather.

Chairperson

Date

Secretary

Date