

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING  
EPWORTH IA  
September 13, 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 6:29 p.m. at the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District office, Epworth, IA on September 13, 2021. Those present included Staff: Theresa Weiss, Colleen Siefken, Eric Schmechel & Zach Timm; Commissioners: Melvin Wilgenbusch, Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Ronald Lindblom & Mike Freiburger.

Adopt Agenda: With the addition of Ron's ecosystem paradigm proposal, the agenda was approved as presented:

21-81 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 August 9, 2021 meeting minutes.

21-82 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

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

<b>Program</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>Program</b>	<b>Balance</b>
REAPP	\$ 10,416.00	Cost Share	\$ 42,990.93
REAPF/NG	\$ 565.18		

\$9,407.09 REAP Supplemental Funds Received.

Cost Share Applications: Wilgenbusch reviewed the following:

*IFIP*

*REAP*

Marcus Murphy, #90844, 17.8 ac Forest Stand Improvement  
Corporation of New Melleray, #93760, 13.4 ac Tree/Shrub Establishment

*WQI – Per DSC, CA's are allowed to approve these for funding. See attachment for those funding from 8/4-9/8/21 by CA. /This year we have funded 139 cover crop applicants on 14,446 acres and they will be receiving \$253,764.30 in cost share. We also funded 2 first time no-till users on 320 acres for \$3,200 in cost share.*

21-83 Motion made by Demmer to approve the REAP applications. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Cost Share Amendment: Wilgenbusch reviewed the following:

none

Cost Share Certifications: Wilgenbusch reviewed the following:

Oberbroeckling Family Trust, #83165, \$25,000 cost share amt.

21-84 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the cost share certifications. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Cost Share Maintenance Agreements: Wilgenbusch reviewed the following:

Oberbroeckling Family Trust, #83165, 1 grade stabilization structure

21-85 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the Maintenance Agreements. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

1M/Finance:

- August Bank Statement & Treasurer reports were reviewed.
- 1M Allocation in the amount of \$2,577.56 was received, added to remaining 1M funds from last FY this equals \$2,700 available.
- Additional Bills (not listed on Treasurer's report) to be approved this meeting:

**SWCD Account**

3198 – Conservation Districts of Iowa –Dues - \$850.00

**Watershed Account**

1001 – Eric Schmechel – supplies - \$ 136.26 (deducted \$.60 for overpayment on ck #3190)

Batteries, Powerpoint clicker - \$41.97

Envelopes - \$94.89

1002 – Eric Schmechel - Icloud due Sept 13 - \$9.99

1003 – Advance Design – caps - \$552.50

1004 – KDST – radio advertising - \$30.00

- Annual Audit – completed by Schmitt & Demmer. It was recommended that all old equipment be dropped from the list and it be updated with watershed equipment purchased this year. It was noted that an incorrect amount (\$2,400.00) was entered as a transfer from the Payroll SWCD account to the Checking account. Correct amount is \$1,073.87 and will be corrected. Account balance wasn't affected.

21-86 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the August Treasurer Report and payment of additional bills. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

21-87 Motion made by Lindblom to amend the Audit with the noted correction and give approval to the report. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence Received:

- Payment of CDI Dues
- WQI program funding exhausted and signup shutdown for the year

- WQI Funding of Previous Customer Applications has been approved and will be ongoing for all applications for the near future.
- CRP Plan Signatures – Email from Kevin McCall with NRCS state office informing SWCD’s of option to no longer have to sign CRP plans. It was noted that format for plans is very generic and board has no say as to contents of plan.
- FARMS Audit – no reply from DSC (sent in April)
- CDI Connections Newsletter (August)
- Century/Heritage Farm Families awards announced
- Proposal from Ron:

For vote by Dubuque SWCD commissioners September/October 2021:

An assignment from the SWCD commission to SWCD staff to use at least 2 hours of time to draft a recommendation for: How the SWCD may incorporate an approach to our soil and water issues that considers the biogeochemical function of the entire Dubuque County area, with focus on employing historically native biotic communities and ecosystems to address the goals as outlined in our five-year SWRCP plan approved Spring 2021. The aim of this assignment is to utilize a comprehensive science-based view to find cost effective ways of addressing issues for the SWCD. The assignment shall also explore how the SWCD may or may not be uniquely positioned to lead County and city departments in coordinating this approach in the county. This recommendation may include one or several facets. Examples of facets are: Mapping extant ecosystems for use in decision making by the SWCD staff and/or Dubuque County entities, proposing protocol changes for the SWCD to aid consideration of native ecosystems in decision making, coordinating ecosystem knowledge for public and private entities across Dubuque County, staff needs to pursue this work, a cost/benefit consideration, next steps, and any other item the SWCD staff find that may fit the goal of considering biogeochemical function on a county wide scale employing historically native biotic communities and ecosystems, and how to bring this paradigm to the County of Dubuque for the benefit of the county.

The assignment is due via a presentation to the SWCD commissioners at their first meeting after Jan 1, 2022.

Thoughts from discussion –staff has/is marketing ecosystem improvement through watershed projects/CRP/EQIP/CSP, watershed program has been developing over past 12 years and continues to evolve as new programs are introduced and fine tuned, has to be sold on private land with economics on mind, public land might be more of a possibility, every farm has it’s own ecosystem and changes on private land are still the landowners choice, board not sure on plan goal and how we could utilize, could county conservation board and their \$40 million bond referendum be a better fit for this idea, feeling BOS/Co/SWCD will partner if bond referendum passes, SILT program coming to Dubuque – watershed team will assist with that, pressing need for technical help within watershed team. No action taken.

- Paul Miller, IDALS Urban Conservationist coming to Loras at 3 pm on 9/19 in the Wahlert Library. Also UD on 9/20 in room 105 of the Science Center at 5 pm. Will address rainfall trends and illustrate practices or projects getting completed across the state and how they function on the land.

21-88 Motion made by Freiburger to pay the CDI dues in the amount of \$850.00. Motion seconded by Demmer.

21-89 Motion made by Lindblom to forward to FSA the SWCD’s decision to not sign CRP plans. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Project Report:

- Great turn out at Smith's Cows and Covers field day. 120 or so attending, noticed a younger crowd.
- Lack of technical help. Eric will become a squeaky wheel in pressing the point with the state. Partners are providing funds, why can't state/nrcs provide help?
- SILT is proposing coming to Dubuque Co. Will provide employee and partner with watershed team.
- 28E Review will be on September 22<sup>nd</sup> from 5:30 – 7:30 (**change to start time**).
- Proposing changes to TruTerra program this upcoming year
- In addition to giving away t shirts/hats at field days the watershed team is accepting a donation for a t-shirt/hat. Wiley has created a spreadsheet to track sales.

21-90 Motion made by Freiburger to utilize all donations to purchase more t-shirts/hats. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Meeting Updates:

CCWMA - Walk through of the Plaza 20 site on Wednesday this week. Water sampling in Catfish coming up next week.

MRWMA has been quiet.

Kiss the Ground movie being shown at St Joseph the Worker church on 9/27 at 7 p.m.

#### Personnel Updates:

None

#### NRCS Updates: Weiss reported the following:

- Local Work Group needing to assist with 3 priority HUC 12 designations and 3 priority Resource Concerns for the EQIP/CSP Beginning Farmer and Non-Targeted ranking pools. Weiss came up with non-funded applications for EQIP and top three resources concerns for those. A map of HUC 12 watersheds was provided. Board was asked to get back to Theresa ASAP with top 3 designations. Information will be emailed to those assisting SWCD with SWRCP this past summer to also ask for their input.
- 24 EQIP Contracts, \$702,400 in funding, was approved this fiscal year.
- 2 CSP Contracts, \$220,949 in funding, was approved this fiscal year.
- 159 Acres of Continuous CRP contracts were approved by FSA in August. Breakdown of total acres per practice was shared with Board.
- October 1<sup>st</sup> is the first EQIP application deadline for FY '22

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

21-91 Motion made by Freiburger to adjourn. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, **October 4, 2021** at **6:30 p.m.** at the District office.

Melvin Wilgenbach 10/04/21  
Chairperson Date

William Tupper 9/15/21  
Secretary Date

**WQI FUNDED 8-4-21 - 9-8-21**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Practice ID</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Practice</b>	<b>Total Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Amount Obligated</b>	<b>Board Approval Date</b>	<b>Completion Date</b>	<b>Practice Status</b>	<b>Units Installed</b>
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	95943	BREHM BROTHERS FARM LLC	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$3,750.00	\$1,875.00	9/2/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	75
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	95917	KELLY RYAN	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$7,850.00	\$3,925.00	9/1/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	157
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	95826	THOMAS BURLAGE	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$8,000.00	\$4,000.00	8/31/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	160
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	95527	ROBERT LAHEY	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$8,000.00	\$2,400.00	8/26/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	160
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	95481	JPT INC	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$8,000.00	\$2,400.00	8/25/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	160
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	95356	MICHAEL KNIPPER	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$8,000.00	\$2,400.00	8/24/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	160
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	95355	JOHN LYNCH	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$3,000.00	\$900.00	8/24/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	60
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	95172	ALAN TURNIS	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$8,000.00	\$2,400.00	8/20/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	160
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	95171	DAVID TURNIS	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$8,000.00	\$2,400.00	8/20/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	160
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	94793	ALICE COOK	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$6,000.00	\$1,800.00	8/10/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	120
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	94790	TODD COOK	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$8,000.00	\$2,400.00	8/10/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	160
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	94787	JOSEPH DAVIDSHOFER	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$3,000.00	\$1,500.00	8/10/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	60
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	94786	FARNEAR HOLSTEINS INC	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$4,000.00	\$1,200.00	8/10/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	80
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	94814	NICHOLAS WEGMANN	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	8/10/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	40
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	94795	TONY COOK	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$8,000.00	\$2,400.00	8/10/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	160
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	92427	ANDREW WHITE	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$3,050.00	\$915.00	8/5/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	61
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	94657	MICHAEL BOGE	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$6,500.00	\$1,950.00	8/5/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	130
Water Quality Initiative - Statewide	94653	AMY FELDMANN	Cover Crop - 1 Year	\$3,170.00	\$951.00	8/5/2021	12/31/2021	Work in Progress	63.4
				<b>\$106,320.00</b>	<b>\$36,816.00</b>				<b>2126.4</b>