

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Dubuque SWCD District Office

210 Bierman Road, Epworth, Iowa 52045

Call Meeting to Order: The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Demmer on Wednesday April 16th at 7:05 pm at the District office and through Zoom. Those in attendance were Commissioners Wayne Demmer, Mike Freiburger, Ken Behnke; Helen Backes, CA; Julie Hoefler, NRCS Soil Conservationist who was present for Bill Meyer, DC; and Harley Pothoff, Dubuque County Supervisor. Attending via Zoom were the Watershed staff – Eric Schmechel, Scott Hendricks, John Sewell, Allisen Freihage, and Dean Mattoon.

Adopt Agenda:

Backes had additions to the agenda. They included a correction under the Finance section for IDALS Round 5 - 2nd qtr. payment of \$679.35 and discussion on IDALS 3rd qtr. payment. An addition is needed to the State Cost Share for an amendment and certification for David Hosch. With those additions and corrections, Demmer entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

25-71 Motion was made by Freiburger to approve the agenda with the corrections and additions presented. Motion was seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting:

In reviewing the March 19th minutes that were sent out, there was an error listing the next meeting as March 19th, 2025. Backes had corrected the date error for the April 16th meeting. Copies of the corrected minutes were available at the meeting. Demmer entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10th meeting, March 19th meeting and March 28th meeting.

25-72 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the minutes from March 10th, 19th, and 28th meetings. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance:

- March TR, bank statement, deposits and bills were presented and reviewed. Backes gave a verbal review of the TR. A deposit of \$350 from Fidelity Bank & Trust for sponsorship for the upcoming Trivia Night was made to the District checking account. The March funds transfer for NACD employee payroll was \$1,278.42.

With no further discussion, Demmer entertained a motion to approve the March TR, bank statement, bills, deposits, and funds transfer presented.

25-73 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the March TR, bank statement, bills, deposits, and funds transfer presented. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes presented IDALS Round 5 – 2nd qtr payment for \$679.35. Backes stated that the final payment for IDALS Round 5 grant was on hold as there was a discrepancy between the District's amount requested and the actual amount in the account, which is more. Backes will continue to work with the State to determine the actual amount for the final payment.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the IDALS Round 5 2nd qtr payment of \$679.35 and hold the final payment until the correct amount is determined.

25-74 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the IDALS Round 5 2nd qtr payment of \$679.35 and hold the final payment until the correct amount is determined. The motion seconded Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- The District received the MOA from IDALS for Round 7 grant for \$2,656.90 (10% match) for signature.

Demmer entertained a motion to sign the MOA from IDALS for the Round 7 grant.

25-75 Motion made by Freiburger to sign the MOA from IDALS for Round 7 grant. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion was held regarding the transfer of \$250,000 from Watershed checking to a CD account at Fidelity Bank & Trust. The 10-month CD will earn 4.25% and would be accessible without penalty if necessary. Future discussion will be held regarding the interest earned.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the transfer of \$250,000 from Watershed checking account to a CD at Fidelity Bank & Trust.

25-76 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the transfer of \$250,000 to a CD held at Fidelity Bank & Trust. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

State Cost Share/NRCS Updates:

Current FARMS '25 Account information: Cost Share \$33659: REAP F/NG \$0.00; & REAP P \$322.5

- **REAP F/NG and REAP P** – REAP F/NG and REAP P Certifications for Michael McDermott for Forest Stand Improvement were brought to the Commissioners. Cost share amounts are \$2,831.33 and \$768.67 respectively for a total of \$3,600.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the Certifications for payment for Michael McDermott for \$3,600.

25-77 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the Certification for payment for Michael McDermott for \$3,600. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Cost Share Amendment** – Discussion for an amendment to David Hosch Grassed Waterway 412. Inaccurate acres were used for the cost share amount. Actual acres are 6.4 acres increasing the cost share funding to \$12,100.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the amendment for David Hosch Grassed Waterway application.

25-78 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the cost share amendment for David Hosch application. Seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Cost Share Certification** – With the amendment passed, the certification of the Grassed Waterway by David Hosch was brought to the Commissioners for \$12,052.00

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the certification for payment for \$12,052 for David Hosch Grassed Waterway Cost Share project.

25-79 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the Certification for payment for David Hosch for \$12,052. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- **RLF** - Hoefler presented information to the Commissioners on a State Cost Share Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) application for a Waste Storage Facility/Cattle Shed for \$120,975. Hoefler stated the applicant has an application for the RLF that would be in conjunction with a CSP application. If the applicant did not receive the loan, the CSP application would not be feasible. Discussion was held on the RLF.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the RLF application.

25-80 Motion by Freiburger to approve the RLF. The motion was seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion was held on recording cost share maintenance agreements. Commissioners felt it necessary if the land was sold or transferred to another individual/owner, the new owner needs to be aware of the maintenance agreement.

Demmer entertained a motion to have the applicant be responsible for recording the maintenance agreement at the Records office moving forward.

25-81 Motion made by Freiburger to have the applicant record their maintenance agreement at the Records office moving forward. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

Watershed Update:

- Schmechel gave a brief report on the RCPP/IPC update. There is no change from last month's update. He is hoping to receive information by the end of the month.
- Biomass Sampling of cover crops – 45 random samples were taken around the county. The results looked good.
- New Cover Crop program – 14,000 acres signed up so far. Staff stated awards for contractors are on hold until the grant freeze is lifted.
- With the Cover Crop program, 110 growers have signed up to be members of the Farmer-to-Farmer group. Members will be invoiced in the fall and based upon their cover crop acres planted.
- Farmer-to-Farmer group has filed for articles of incorporation with the State of Iowa. They will file for their nonprofit status with the IRS. The seven-member board will be elected at the June meeting possibly.

Correspondence:

- CDI published the current legislative updates.

Other:

- Discussion on mobile online banking for the District will be moved to next month's meeting.
- Soil and Water Conservation Week is April 28 through May 4. Backes will send Proclamation requests to Dubuque County and the communities in Dubuque County. Details of the trivia night were discussed. SWCD provided items for a silent auction basket.

- Backes stated that the Conservation Awards are due in June. Commissioners suggested passing the information on to the staff as staff would have better suggestions of recipients for the awards.

There was no further business to discuss, Demmer entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

25-82 Motion made by Freiburger to adjourn. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:21 pm.

The next regular meeting will be **Wednesday, May 21, 2025, at 7:00 pm** at the District office in Epworth.

Wayne Demmer 5-21-25
Chairperson Date

Helen Backes 5-21-25
Secretary Date