

Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner's Meeting
Wednesday November 19, 2025
210 Bierman Road, Epworth

Call Meeting to Order: The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Wayne Demmer on Wednesday, November 19 at 6:01 pm at the NRCS office at 210 Bierman Road, Epworth. Those in attendance were commissioners Wayne Demmer, Mike Freiburger, and Ken Behnke; Bill Meyer, DC; Olivia Feldmann, State Tech; Scott Hendricks, Watershed Agronomist; Dave Ruden and Helen Backes, CA. Those attending via Zoom included Eric Schmechel, Watershed Director, and Dean Mattoon, Urban Stormwater Coordinator. Commissioner Dennis Rauen joined the meeting at 6:15 pm

Adopt Agenda: Two items were added to the agenda which include approval for separate training sessions for Scott Hendrick and Dean Mattoon.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the amended agenda.

25-164 Motion was made by Freiburger to approve the amended agenda. Motion was seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting:

Due to the timing of receiving the minutes, the approval of minutes will take place at the next meeting.

Finance:

- Corrected August TR, September TR and October TR, bank statement, and bills were presented and reviewed. Backes gave a verbal review of the August and September TR's including bank statements from both Fidelity Bank & Trust and Dupaco. The transfer of funds from Dupaco to Fidelity took place on August 9, 2025. Due to the shutdown, only bills were present for October. Backes reviewed the treasurer report for October.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the corrected August TR, September TR and October TR, bank statement, and bills presented.

25-165 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the corrected August TR, September TR and October TR, bank statement, and bills presented. The motion was seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- The September NACD payroll funds transfer was \$2,386.02 from 9/26/25 and 10/10/25 pay
- Periods.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the NACD funds transfer.

25-166 Motion made by Freiburger to approve NACD funds transfers. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Approval for the transfer of \$100,000 from the Watershed account 3396 to a CD held at Fidelity Bank & Trust as discussed from the October 8 meeting.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve \$100,000 CD at FB&T.

25-167 Motion made by Behnke to approve a \$100,000 CD from the Watershed account. Seconded by Rauen. Motion passed unanimously.

FARMS Update:

Backes presented various certifications and approval for State Cost Share program.

Cover Crops - 340

Name	Program	Practice ID	Total Acres	Total Cost Share	Approval Status
Glenn Bown	WQI	131804	60	\$1,200	Certification
James "Jay" Daly	WQI	127272	64	\$1,280	Certification
Jeff Heiderscheit	WQI	126133	90.19	\$1,803.80	Certification

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the Cover Crop Certifications.

25-168 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the Cover Crop Certifications. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

REAP Application

Name	Program	Practice ID	Total Acres	Total Cost Share	Approval Status
New Melleray	REAP P	666 TSI	10.5	\$1,260	Approval

Discussion was held regarding the farming practices currently on the New Melleray fields.

Ruden stated he would set up a time/date to speak with New Melleray regarding the practices.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the REAP P application.

25-169 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the REAP P application. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

IFIP

Name	Program	Practice ID	Total Acres	Total Cost Share	Approval Status
Kenneth Hosch	IFIP	412 Waterway		\$13,693.61	Certification

Discussion was held on reviewing the practice reviewed in 4-5 years.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the IFIP Certification.

25-170 Motion made by Behnke to approve the IFIP Certification. Motion seconded by Rauhen. Motion carried unanimously.

Watershed:

- Schmechel discussed purchasing Watershed merchandise as their supply was low.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve up to \$2,000 for Watershed merchandise.

25-171 Motion made by Rauhen to approve up to \$2,000 for Watershed merchandise. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

- Schmechel updated the group on the Roots to Results, soil health training. This includes 4 – 2-day sessions, possible funding available for scholarships and shout out to Rauhen for his assistance.
- Schmechel informed the group of a 28E Agreement recap meeting scheduled for December 16 at 4:30 pm at Swiss Valley Nature Center. Schmechel asked to approve funding to assist with a meal. The cost would be matched by the Farmer-to-Farmer group.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve up to \$300 for meal costs.

25-172 Motion made by Freiburger to approve up to \$300 for meal costs. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Schmechel gave a brief update on the Farmer-to-Farmer group. They will hold a large group meeting on December 10 at a location to be determined.

- Schmechel briefed the group on the SARE grant. This funding would be used for scholarships for the Roots to Results training. Schmechel touched on this topic earlier in the Roots to Results notes.
- Registration request was presented by Scott Hendricks. Hendricks will be attending the ACRES Conference in Madison Wisconsin December 2-4.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the registration and expenses for Scott Hendricks for conference attendance.

25-173 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the registration and expenses for conference attendance for Scott Hendricks. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Registration request was made by Dean Mattoon to attend the I Storm conference at Cedar Falls in April.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the registration and expenses for Dean Mattoon for I Storm conference attendance.

25-174 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the registration and expenses for conference attendance for Dean Mattoon. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Registration request was made by Dean Mattoon to attend a GIS conference at Ames.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the registration and expenses for Dean Mattoon for GIS conference attendance.

25-175 Motion made by Rauen to approve the registration and expenses for conference attendance for Dean Mattoon. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

NRCS:

- Meyer asked for the commissioners to prioritize watersheds, establishing areas that will rank higher for NRCS applications.

Demmer entertained a motion to list the Upper Little Creek Maquoketa River watershed and Upper Prairie Creek watershed as priority watersheds.

25-176 Motion made by Freiburger to list the Upper Little Creek Maquoketa River watershed and Upper Prairie Creek watershed as priority watersheds. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Meyer discussed NRCS staff reviewing current contracts, completing field visits and submitting documentation for payments. He reported changes in the pool leaving Dubuque county with fewer contracts. Meyer suggested a conference on No-Till for farmers in the future.

New Business:

- Discussion was held on the current NACD grant position.

Demmer entertained a motion for the NACD position as non-essential, therefore not eligible to work during a government shutdown. The position is not eligible for backpay.

25-177 Motion made by Freiburger to recognize the NACD position as non-essential, therefore not eligible to work during a government shutdown. The position is not eligible for backpay. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes presented information on the CDI Scholarship and Father Norman White Scholarship. It was determined the deadlines for the scholarships would be March 1, 2026, so the commissioners can review the applications and determine the winners. A Commissioner will present the award to the winner at the winner's school awards night.

Demmer entertained a motion approve the CDI and FNW scholarship funding as the same amounts as last year.

25-178 Motion made by Rauen to approve the CDI and FNW scholarship funding as the same amounts as last year. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

Old Business:

- Feldmann updated the commissioners on the trivia night fundraiser "Soil, Where it all Begins: A Night for Soil and Water Conservation. Feldmann created a list of potential sponsors. Commissioners need to assist with gathering sponsorships/memberships for the event. Feldmann recommended Dyersville Commercial Club for the venue and Moski's BBQ as caterer.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve recommended the venue and the caterer.

25-179 Motion made by Rauen to approve the venue and caterer. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no further action to discuss

Demmer entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

25-180 Motion made by Freiburger to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Wayne Demmer 12/17/25
Chairperson Date

Helen Beckes 12-17-25
Secretary Date