

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

Wednesday, May 21, 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 May 21st at 7:02 pm at the District office and through Zoom. Those in attendance were Commissioners Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Mike Freiburger, Dennis Rauen; Bill Meyer, DC; Harley Pothoff, Dubuque County Supervisor; and Helen Backes, CA. Attending via Zoom were Allisen Freihage, and Eric Schmechel joined in later.

Adopt Agenda:

Backes had three additions to the agenda. Under the Finance section 1) US Cellular ACH payment for \$322.09; 2) submission of IDALS GAX February-March 2025 Round 7 for \$415.32; 3) discussion of Dupaco online banking and moving accounts to Fidelity Bank & Trust. Demmer added discussion regarding Cost Share Maintenance Agreements minutes from the last meeting. With those additions, Demmer entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

25-83 Motion was made by Freiburger to approve the agenda with the additions presented. Motion was seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting:

In reviewing the April 16th minutes, there was an error listing on motion **25-80**. The minutes stated, "The motion was seconded by Schmitt". It should have been motion seconded by Behnke. Demmer entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the April 16th meeting with the correction.

25-84 Motion made by Rauen to approve the minutes from the April 16th meeting with the correction. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance:

- April TR, bank statement, deposits and bills were presented and reviewed. Backes gave a verbal review of the TR. An ACH deposit of \$679.43 was received on April 23rd from IDALS Round 5 grant. Other deposits included \$747.74 for the final IDALS Round 5 grant ACH payment received on May 1st and \$1,180 on May 22 for Trivia Night. With no further discussion, Demmer entertained a motion to approve the April TR, bank statement, bills, and deposits presented.

25-85 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the April TR, bank statement, bills, and deposits presented. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

- The April funds transfer from the payroll saving account to the Watershed checking for NACD employee payroll was \$3835.45. Demmer entertained a motion to approve the April funds transfer of \$3835.45.

25-86 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the April funds transfer. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes presented IDALS Round 5 GAX form for January – February 2025 for \$410.69 and September – October 2022 for \$337.05. Backes stated the final payment for IDALS Round 5 grant from the April 16th meeting was on hold as there was a discrepancy between the District's amount requested and the actual amount in the account. It was determined that no GAX form was submitted for the first quarter of the grant in 2022. Demmer entertained a motion to approve the IDALS Round 5 payments of \$410.69 and \$337.05.

25-87 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the IDALS Round 5 payments of \$410.69 and \$337.05. The motion seconded Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

- The District received the MOA from NACD for the TA 24 grant for \$26,569.00 for signature.

Demmer entertained a motion to sign the MOA from NACD for the TA 24 Grant.

25-88 Motion made by Freiburger to sign the MOA from NACD. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion was held with Dupaco online banking. Freiburger stated Dupaco lists all accounts that he is listed on when he goes online. He stated he is concerned about scams and his personal banking or the District's accounts could be at risk. The Commissioners discussed moving some of the accounts to Fidelity Bank & Trust where the District has their CD. The Commissioners will discuss the Watershed accounts with Schmechel. Demmer will discuss interest rates for checking accounts with Fidelity and bring the information back to the next meeting.

Backes clarified the various District bank accounts with the Commissioners so they can better understand the different accounts.

State Cost Share/NRCS Updates:

Current FARMS '25 Account information: Cost Share \$31: REAP F/NG \$0.00; & REAP P \$322.50

- Demmer reviewed the motion **25-81** from last month, in which the Maintenance Agreements for the Cost Share program would be recorded at the Recorder's office. If the applicant/producer sold their land, the maintenance agreement would be on file and transfer to the new owner.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the Cost Share - Waterway applications.

Applicant	Practice ID	Program	Practice	Estimated Total Cost	Total Cost Share	Approval Status
Todd Gronau	412 / .05 acre	Cost Share	Waterway	\$3,750	\$1,875	Approved
Kramer Timber LLC	412 / .07 acre	Cost Share	Waterway	\$15,000 tile/rock check	\$7,500	Approved
Jason Schmitt	412 / 2.3 acres	Cost Share	Waterway	\$14,000	\$7,000	Approved

25-89 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the Cost Share Applications. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Demmer entertained a motion to cancel the application for Roger Riniker for Grade Stabilization per his request.

Applicant	Practice ID	Program	Practice	Estimated Total Cost	Total Cost Share	Approval Status
Roger Riniker 12/2/24	410	Cost Share	Grade Stabilization	\$9,788	\$4894	Cancelled Application

25-90 Motion made by Freiburger to cancel the application for Roger Riniker for Grade Stabilization. Seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the Certifications for No-Till applications.

Applicant	Practice ID	Program	Practice	Estimated Total Cost	Total Cost Share	Approval Status
Peggy Harbaugh	329 / 15.7 acres	WQI	No - Till	\$314.00	\$157.00	Certification
John Austin Hoefler	329 / 56 acres	WQI	No - Till	\$1,120	\$560	Certification

25-91 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the Certification for No-Till applications. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the REAP applications.

Applicant	Practice ID	Program	Practice	Estimated Total Cost	Total Cost Share	Approval Status
Jeremy Fluhr	666 / 44 acres	REAP P	Forest Stand Improvement	\$7,040	\$5280	Approved
Marty McNamer	612 / 3.7 acres	REAP P	Tree Planting	\$2,960	\$2,220	Approved

25-92 Motion by Freiburger to approve the REAP applications. The motion was seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes stated the Cover Crop program through State Cost Share was accepting applications.
- Discussion was held on green farming and soil health. Discussion to be continued next month.

NRCS Update:

Meyer gave a brief update on NRCS programs.

- Staff are checking on field practices throughout the county.
- FSA has a June 6 deadline for CRP signup. Staff are working on Conservation Plans for CRPs.
- Staff are completing compliance checks.

Meeting Updates:

No current meeting updates.

Other:

- Backes handed out the CDI Resolutions for the Commissioners to review. The Commissioners will need to vote on the resolutions at the next Commissioner meeting on July 25th.
- Backes presented the winner of the Father Norman White Scholarship. Taylor Borgerding of Wahlert High School was chosen as the recipient. She will receive \$500. From the District.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve Taylor Borgerding as the Father Norman White Scholarship Winner.

25-93 Motion by Freiburger to approve Taylor Borgerding as the Father Norman White Scholarship Winner. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes stated DRA Grant was submitted on May 16th. The grant is for a newsletter with membership form included and a 3-fold brochure on the SWCD. The grant is for \$3700.00.
- A recap of the Trivia Night was given. The silent auction brought in \$830.00, and the player fees were \$390 for a total of \$1,220. Positive feedback was heard with several individuals expressing the Trivia Night be held earlier next year.
- Backes reminded the Commissioners of the Conservation awards deadline. Commissioners recommended input from the NRCS staff.
- A Watershed Work Session is scheduled for the following Tuesday, May 27th at Noon at the Conference Room at the Dubuque County Roads building. This will be a working lunch session. Discussion will be an update on the IPC Grant and the Watershed Cover Crop project.

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

25-94 Motion made by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

The next regular meeting will be **Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at 7:00 pm** at the District office in Epworth.

Wayne Demmer 7/16/25
 Chairperson Date

Helen Backes 7/16/25
 Secretary Date