Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner's Special Meeting
Wednesday September 10, 2025
Middle Road, Dubuque IA

Call Meeting to Order: A special meeting of the Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Wayne Demmer on Wednesday, September 10 at 10:10 am at the Middle Road property. Those in attendance were commissioners Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Mike Freiburger, and Dennis Rauen. Other attendees included Bill Meyer, DC; Helen Backes, CA; Scott Hendricks, Watershed Agronomist, and Dean Mattoon, Urban Stormwater Coordinator, Beth Bonz, Asbury City Administrator and Eric Lahey, operator. Attending via Facetime was Tim Blake, owner.

Demmer opened the meeting with introductions and the purpose for the special meeting. A soil loss complaint was filed in the SWCD office from the City of Asbury on August 12, 2025, regarding soil erosion on Farm 4812 Tract 2292. The outcome of the meeting was to discuss recommendations to implement to remedy soil loss.

Tim Blake is the current owner of the property. Eric Lahey is the operator of the property.

Several ideas were discussed on to best implement soil conservation practices. Lahey had shaped some waterways earlier this year. Meyer suggested NRCS Technical staff could work with Blake and Lahey to address the issue. A short-term option was to apply for state cost share for cover crops in the fall. Future options would be to cost share on a field boarder, or to seed the property with hay.
There were concerns about the northeast corner of the property as there was nowhere for the excess water to drain to. Blake also mentioned Asbury took out the ditches for the northeast corner.
Bonz stated Asbury would work with Blake on the corner regarding a catch basin type of structure.
Blake and Lahey would discuss the options presented to best serve all parties. Lahey would apply for state cost share for cover crops.

The SWCD commissioners will continue to monitor the progress of the soil loss complaint.

With no further action at this time, the meeting ended at 11:00 am
to approve the two State Cost Share Cover Crop applications. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motioned carried unanimously.

Wayne Demmer 12/17/25
Chairperson Date

Helen Backes 12-17-25
Secretary Date