

# DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

Wednesday, January 23, 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 January 23 pm at 6:04 pm at the District office and through Zoom. Those present included Commissioners Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Mike Freiburger, Dennis Rauen, Ken Behnke; Bill Meyer, DC; Helen Backes, CA; Watershed staff Eric Schmechel, and Allisen Freihage, who arrived later. Scott Hendrick and John Sewell, Watershed staff and Wayne Kenniker, County Supervisor attended via ZOOM.

## **Adopt Agenda:**

The agenda has three items to be added. They include 1) Deposit of \$7605.60 2) REAP P fund amount \$2,546.91 and 3) WQI No Till Cancellation.

Demmer called for a motion to approve the agenda with the additions presented.

**25-19** Motion was made by Schmitt to approve the agenda with the additions presented. Motion was seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Demmer called for a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held on December 11, 2024, special meeting on December 13, 2024, and the special meeting held on December 30, 2024.

**25-20** Motion made by Freiburger to approve the minutes from the previous meetings in December. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

## **Finance:**

- December TR, bank statement, deposits and bills were presented and reviewed. Backes gave a verbal review of the TR. Backes is still working with the state to determine the obligated funds totals and what data is used to determine the obligated funds.

With no further discussion, Demmer called for a motion to approve the December TR, bank statement, deposits & bills presented.

**25-21** Motion made by Schmitt to approve the December TR; bank statement, deposits & bills presented and deposit. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Funds Transfer for NACD payroll for \$3,411.33 for 3 payrolls 12-20-24; 1-3-25 and 1-17-25 to the Watershed checking account.

Demmer called for a motion to transfer payroll funds in the amount of \$3,411.33.

**25-22** Motion made by Rauen to transfer \$3,344.33 for payroll funds. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

- Training Requests were presented from John Sewell and Allisen Freihage to attend the Upper Midwest Stream Restoration Symposium; Scott Hendricks to attend the Leadership for Midwestern Watershed Conference and Eric Schmechel to attend the Wisconsin Land and Water Conservation Conference.

Demmer called for a motion to approve the training requests presented.

**25-23** Motion made by Schmitt to approve the training requests. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes discussed the NACD TA 2024 Outreach and Technical Assistance Grant. The grant was approved; however, the funding categories (EQIP, CSP and COTA) were amended. NACD will commit \$26,569 + \$1,328 (5% match); match dollars \$5,313 (20% match between IDLAS and DBQ SWCD). Total grant request is \$33,210.

Demmer called for a motion to approve the NACD TA 24 Grant support and funding.

**25-24** Motion made by Freiburger to approve the NACD TA 2024 Grant support and funding. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion was held on the updated IRS mileage reimbursement of \$.70/mile for the Watershed employees.

Demmer called for a motion to raise the mileage to \$.70/mile for Watershed employees.

**25-25** Motion made by Rauen to raise the mileage rate to \$.70/mile for Watershed employees. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes discussed the State Audit completed on December 11<sup>th</sup>. Backes presented a summary of Recommendations for District Procedures based upon the State Financial Site Visit. Backes will email the Summary of Recommendations to the appropriate parties.
- Discussion was held on 2024 1099 NEC for the District/Watershed consultants. 1099 NEC's need to be mailed out by January 31, 2025.

Demmer called for a motion approve Backes to complete the 2024 1099 NECs as required.

**25-26** Motion made by Freiburger to approve Backes to complete the 2024 1099 NECs. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes presented newsletters from other districts regarding the other districts memberships/donors. Discussion was held on various options. No decision was made. Discussion of fundraising will continue at next month's meeting.

**FARMS Summary:**

**Current FARMS '25 Account information: Cost Share \$4,759; REAP F/NG \$0.00; & REAP P \$2546.91**

- **REAP P** An application by Corp of New Melleray \$960 for REAP P funds was brought to the Commissioners. The application is for Forest Tree Stand Improvement and consists of 8 acres.

Demmer called for a motion approve the REAP P application for Corp of New Melleray for \$960 in cost share.

**25-27** Motion made by Rauen to approve the REAP P Forest Tree Stand Improvement for \$960.00. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

- **State Cost Share Amendment** for Kevin Pitz. Supplemental Funds of \$26,500 were requested for his Grade Stabilization as the District did not have enough funds available.

Demmer called for a motion approve the Cost Share Amendment of \$26,000 for Kevin Pitz for his Grade Stabilization.

**25-28** Motion made by Schmitt to approve the Cost Share Amendment of \$26,000 for Kevin Pitz for his Grade Stabilization. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- **WQI Cover Crop Payment Approval/Cancellations –**
- No Till Application for John Hoefler is on hold due to lack of funding for WQI projects.
- Backes presented a list of individuals who are eligible for Cover Crop certification at this time. There are 20 applicants with 1,512.64 acres planted for a cost share of \$42,182.80. **See Attachment A.**

Demmer called for a motion to approve the list of applicants for cover crop certification.

**25-29** Motion made by Freiburger to approve the list of applicants for cover crop certification. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes presented a list of individuals who cancelled their cover crop application. There are 14 applicants with a total of 1083.19 acres. **See Attachment B.**

Demmer called for a motion to approve the list of applicants with cover crop cancellations.

**25-30** Motion made by Rauen to approve the list of applicants with cover crop cancellations. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes also presented one NO Till application for Devyn Hoefler cancellation for 106.89 acres

Demmer called for a motion to approve the cancellation of the NO Till application.

**25-31** Motion made by Schmitt to approve the cancellation of the NO Till application. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously

**Watershed Project Update:**

- Freihage arrived late as she was attending the Women, Land and Legacy event held at Oh So Good Winery. Approximately 80 people were in attendance. Giorgenti will report back on the event.
- Schmechel spoke on the Farmer-to-Farmer group. A meeting was held on January 8 at Happy's in Dubuque. There was a great turnout for the meeting. Many ideas came from the group. The steering committee discussed "skin in the game" for farmers. F2F group would like to charge a tier system membership fee based on implementing conservation practices. The group is also interested in attaining their 501c (3) status. Until then, F2F would run any funding through the Watershed for membership fees.

- There is a RFQ for quotes from drillers to assist with the Watershed's cover Crop program. The farmer would have a choice of drill or drone coverage for their fields.
- Sign up for the cover crop program would possibly start in 3 weeks to a month.
- Discussion on the Farmer-to-Farmer Conference. To date, 90 participants have signed up for the event. The SWCD will recognize their 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the conference. Backes will provide a SWCD flyer for the folders. Schmechel/Demmer will briefly speak on behalf of the District. The plaque needs to be updated with the new Commissioners. A banner using the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary logo from Trevor & Brooke will be made. The District would like to provide dessert for lunch on the last day of the conference.

Demmer called for a motion to approve providing desserts for the lunch on the last day of the conference.

**25-32** Motion made by Schmitt to approve providing desserts for the lunch. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

- "Common Ground" will be shown Wednesday, February 5 at 5:30 pm at the River Museum. The District and Watershed want to target local leaders to the showing. Currently, there are 40 individuals signed up. A public showing will be held in the future possible at the 5 Flags Center.
- The Watershed 28E budget session with the supervisors will be February 6 at 1:30 pm.
- Sewell and Freihage gave a brief update of the Big Soil Event they attended. They felt the conference was heavy on the application of fertilizer.

#### **NRCS Updates:**

- Meyers gave a brief update on NRCS. With the new Administration, the IRA funding is on hold, telework from home is eliminated; and the Administration would like a list of probationary staff.
- Meyers attended a Crop Workshop by ISU Extension. It was informative and interesting on soil legacy and cover crop management practices.

#### **Correspondence:**

- Backes shared with the Commissioners the current CDI Connections Newsletter available in hard copy.
- Backes presented information on "Water Rocks!". The organization seek a donation to support their work in educational programs. Commissioners tabled the donation.

#### **Meeting Updates:**

- CDI Region 4 Spring Regional Meeting is Thursday March 6, 2025, in Waukon. Registration is due by February 26, 2025.
- Conservation Partnership Day at the Iowa Capital is March 11, 2025.
- New Commissioner Orientation is Wednesday February 5, 2025, from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. This will be available online afterwards.

#### **Other:**

- Backes presented the Slough Bill Applications for Commissioner Approval. After discussion the commissioners approved the applications with the understanding that someone would check the properties. **See attachment C.**

Demmer called for a motion to approve the Slough Bill applications with the understanding of checks on the property.

**25-33** Motion made by Freiburger to approve the Slough Bill applications with the understanding of checks on the property. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- Backes presented information on the CDI Scholarship and the Father Norman White \$500 Memorial Scholarship. Commissioners agreed to support both scholarships.
- Commissioners agreed to participate in the 2025 Poster Contest "Home is Where the Habitat is." They will provide \$25 to the winner of each age group as they have in the past years.
- Soil & Conservation Stewardship Week is April 27 – May 4. Backes will collaborate with Freihage and the Dubuque County Conservation on activities throughout the week across the county. Freiburger would like to have the County Supervisors and local cities declare Soil and Conservation Stewardship Week.
- Delaware County Tree Sale is currently available. Forms are available at the Dubuque District office. This is a fundraiser for Delaware SWCD.

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

**25-34** Motion made by Rauhen to adjourn. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

The next regular meeting will be **Wednesday, March 19 at 5:00 pm** at the District office in Epworth.

<u>Wayne Demmer</u>	<u>2/19/25</u>	<u>W. De Backes, CA</u>	<u>2-19-25</u>
Chairperson	Date	Secretary	Date

Attachment A  
Attachment B  
Attachment C

**Attachment A - 1/23/2025**

<b>WQI - Cover Crop - SWCD Board Approval</b>								
<b>Date</b>	<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Application #</b>	<b>Obligated Acres</b>	<b>Actual Acres</b>	<b>Obligated \$\$</b>	<b>Actual \$\$</b>	<b>Date Signed</b>
1/9/2025	Helgersn	Nick	117831	70	70	\$ 1,400.00	\$ 1,400.00	1/13/2025
1/9/2025	Cook	Alice	119814	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	12/4/2024
1/9/2025	Cook	Todd	119814	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	12/4/2024
1/9/2025	Cook	Tony	117283	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	11/4/2024
1/16/2025	Bonert & Kennedy Farm	Matthew	118691	90	85	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,700.00	1/18/2025
1/16/2025	Ambrosy	Jason	119821	160	139.83	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,796.60	1/22/2025
1/16/2025	Ambrosy	Marvin	119824	160	74.9	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 1,498.00	1/22/2025
1/21/2025	Stelken	Steven	117856	49.9	40.41	\$ 998.00	\$ 808.20	12/6/2024
1/21/2025	Rowles	Dale	119875	160	147.5	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,950.00	12/13/2024
1/21/2025	Willie	Greg	119846	25	25	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	12/13/2024
1/21/2025	Davidshofer	Joe	119881	70	57	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 1,710.00	1/22/2025
1/21/2025	Ploessel Farms	Dan Ploessel	119882	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	1/21/2025
1/21/2025	Harbaugh	Peggy	117318	20	16	\$ 600.00	\$ 480.00	1/22/2025
1/21/2025	Wilwert	Andrew	117927	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	1/7/2025
1/21/2025	Gaul	Nicholas	11876	50	48	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 960.00	12/30/2024
12/10/2024	Steffensmeier	Wilfred	119853	160	160.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	1/21/2025
12/12/2024	Steffensmeier	Jason	119849	140	80	\$ 2,800.00	\$ 1,600.00	1/21/2025
12/12/2024	Schueller	Steven	117958	160	20	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 600.00	1/22/2025
1/21/2025	Thier Farms Inc	Jeff Their	111635	160	139	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 2,780.00	1/23/2025
12/10/2024	Decker	James	116109	160	160.00	\$ 3,200.00	\$ 3,200.00	1/23/2025
			<b>Total</b>	2434.9	2062.64	\$ 49,598.00	\$ 42,182.80	
			<b>Difference</b>		372.26		\$ 7,415.20	



# Cancellations

## Cover Crop

Last Name	First Name	Application #	Acres	\$\$
Ertl	Donald	116466	160	\$ 4,800.00
Wulfekuhle	John	116474	107.4	\$ 2,148.40
Kurt	Christopher	117302	40	\$ 800.00
Kluesner	Paul	117322	75	\$ 1,500.00
Takes	John	117416	145.2	\$ 2,903.80
Pitz	Kevin	118697	135	\$ 2,700.00
Puls	David	119854	10.5	\$ 315.00
Funke	Benjamin	122435	110	\$ 2,200.00
Lynch	John	122004	30	\$ 600.00
Simon	Matt	120590	37	\$ 740.00
Hermesen	Brian	122608	153.8	\$ 3,076.00
Connolly	Jarret	116471	46	\$ 1,380.00
Feldmann	Barbara	118647	16	\$ 480.00
Lake Lemke Farms LLC	Angela Lemke	122486	17.29	\$ 518.70

**Total 1083.19 \$ 24,161.90**

## No Till

Hoefler Devyn 119902 106.89 \$ 1,068.90

Attachment B

1/23/2025

# Slough Bill Applications – 1-23-2025

<b><u>Program:</u></b>	<b><u>ACRES</u></b>
<b>Forest Cover applications:</b>	
Comer, Michael J & Jennifer L	2.0
Flat Rock Forest Group Inc	20.97
Herzog, Kevin M & Jane M	3.31
Kennedy, Martin J & Barbara K	6.59
Leigh, Mary E Trust	24.49
Wilgenbusch, Sara A & Klaren, Gerald	7.95
<b>Open Prairie applications:</b>	
Corp of New Melleray	
Deutmeyer Fam Trust	2.5
Flat Rock Forest Group Inc	5.46
Fortman, David	11.62
Hazewinkel, Herbert J Jr	2.17
Idelkope, Daphne	22.34
Kubitz Properties, LLC	9.32
Schmechel, Eric & Meredith	2.0
<b>Rivers &amp; Streams applications:</b>	
Flat Rock Forest Group Inc	7.0
Knipper, Michael A & Mary J	4.71

**Attachment C**

**1-23-24**