

**DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S SPECIAL MEETING**

**Tuesday May 27, 2025**

**Dubuque County Building**

**1225 Seippel Road, Dubuque IA**

A working lunch meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District and Watershed staff was held on Tuesday May 27<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm at the Dubuque County office at 1225 Seippel Road. Those who attended were Commissioners Wayne Demmer, Mike Freiburger, Dennis Rauen; Bill Meyer, DC; and Helen Backes, CA. Watershed staff in attendance were Eric Schmechel, Allisen Freihage, Scott Henricks and John Sewell.

**Watershed Update:**

Schmechel gave a brief update on the various projects and funding sources.

- Previous IPC consultants are not returning to their positions. Schmechel questioned how Watershed will move forward with the IPC Grant. Discussion was held with the Watershed staff on how to best utilize staff. Scott and Allisen's duties will be redefined. An Environmental Specialist position is also being discussed. Employees' titles may change with expanded positions.
- There is a personnel meeting tentatively scheduled for June 11 or 12<sup>th</sup> at Noon.
- Discussion was held on a potential line-item change on soil health within the IPC Grant. Possibly free soil testing for producers could be available for up to \$90,000. The soil health plan is in development.
- Rain Garden-Native Landscaping Grant request – Schmechel would like to submit a grant for a rain garden and Native Landscaping at the Dubuque County office building on Seippel Road. The one that is on site needs repair and corrected from the original rain garden.

Demmer opened the work session meeting at 1:20 pm to entertain a motion to approve 20% cash match up to \$500 and in-kind match from employee for the Rain Garden-Native Landscaping grant.

**25-95** Motion made by Rauen to approve 20% cash match up to \$500 and in-kind match from employee for the Rain Garden-Native Landscaping grant. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

- There are over 16,000 acres enrolled in the Watershed Cover Crop program. Seed bids will be opened in June for review. The program is no longer accepting applications for their program.
- Farmer to farmer update – The group is working on restructuring the membership fee in regard to the federal program.
- Schmechel is reviewing the 28 E agreement with the City of Dubuque. He hopes to have it accomplished by August and the 28 E agreement with Dubuque County by September.

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

**25-96** Motion made by Rauen to adjourn. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:02 pm.

The next regular meeting will be **Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 12:30 pm** at the Dubuque County Office building 1225, Seippel Road.

Wayne Demmer 7/16/25  
Chairperson Date

Helen Backes 7-16-25  
Secretary Date