

MINUTES OF THE DUBUQUE SOIL AND WATER
 CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
 EPWORTH IA
 OCTOBER 13, 2020

Call Meeting to Order: The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Melvin Wilgenbusch at 1:02 p.m. on a Teleconference Call on October 13, 2020. Those present included Staff: Theresa Weiss & Colleen Siefken; Commissioners: Melvin Wilgenbusch, Dave Ruden, Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt & Mike Freiburger; Guest Speakers: Claire Carlson & Eric Schmechel.

Adopt Agenda: With the addition of DSC Intern, the agenda was approved as presented:

20-94 Motion made by Demmer to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Wilgenbusch called for a discussion of the September 8, 2020 meeting minutes.

20-95 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the minutes. Motion seconded by Ruden. Motion carried unanimously.

Guest Speaker Claire Carlson - CDI: Updated the board on the Soil & Water Resource Conservation Plan (SWRCP) process. Next will be a public brainstorming meeting scheduled for November 16th from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. through the ZOOM platform. Are there any additional groups we want to personally invite other than those in the original Local Work Group meeting? More info at our November meeting.

FARMS Program Summary: Current **FARMS '20** Account information as per 10/5/20:

Program	Balance	Program	Balance
REAPP	\$ 1,771.41	REAPF/NG	\$ 5,681.14
Cost Share	\$ 80,615.57		

Cost Share Applications:

IFIP

None

REAP

Corporation of New Melleray, 88179, 3 ac tree/shrub establishment, \$1,800 cost share
 Celester Feldmann, 88423, 5.4 ac Forest Stand Improvement on CRP ac, \$648 cost share
 Brian Preston, 88162, 8.8 ac Forest Stand Improvement, \$1,056 cost share
 Brian Preston, 8242, 3 ac Tree/Shrub Establishment, \$1,350 cost share

WQI

Signup has ended. No additional applications to be taken.

20-96 Motion made by Demmer to approve the applications. Motion seconded by Ruden. Motion carried unanimously.

Cost Share Amendments: None

Cost Share Certifications:

Kenneth Runde, 78573, \$600 cost share
Farnear Holsteins, Inc, 87335, \$900 cost share
Mathew Knepper, 83757, \$925.00 cost share
Thomas Beringer, 87802, \$2,000 cost share

20-97 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the Certifications. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Cost Share Maintenance Agreements:

Kenneth Runde, 78573, 5 acres Forest Stand Improvement

20-98 Motion made by Ruden to approve the Maintenance Agreement. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

1M/Finance:

- September Bank Statement was emailed for commissioner review.
- September Treasurer's Report was emailed for commissioner review.
- \$1,102.02 1M Expense Voucher

20-99 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the September Treasurer's Report. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

20-100 Motion made by Ruden to approve the expense voucher. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence Received:

- \$1,000 PF New Employee/Request for Funding – Siefken provided survey of other neighboring SWCD Contributions to PF employees.
- IDALS has officially ended the WQI Cover Crop signup.
- State Wide Cover Crop survey and yearly results of survey had been emailed to the board during the month for their review. Thoughts were voiced that survey is very thorough and perhaps a bit too long. Discussion was held on how to get specifics for Dubuque county. Weiss suggested perhaps an email to those on her cover crop email list. Other followup efforts will be addressed in future.
- CDI Scholarship Donation – Siefken mentioned that CDI is looking for donations from the SWCD's to help cover expenses due to there being no auction (fund raising) at virtual Annual Conference this year.

- Zoom Option for Future Meetings – Siefken mentioned that CDI will assist the SWCD’s in hosting their Board meetings through the Zoom platform. It was also mentioned that Schmechel now has a Zoom license.
- Notice has been received by IDALS of opportunity to sponsor an Intern in the Summer of 2021. Weiss and Siefken had discussed and decided we would pass on the opportunity this year due to the uncertain status of the resource team being based in the office.

20-101 Motion made by Ruden to approve \$500 for the PF employee. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

20-102 Motion made by Schmitt to approve a \$100 donation to the CDI scholarship program. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Updates:

- Freiburger mentioned that he had just received the Maquoketa River WMA water sampling results. He will forward the results to all after the meeting.
- CCWMA meets on 10/14/20.

Personnel:

- Schmechel
 - o 10 applicants for Conservation Agronomist Job. Freiburger and Ruden will assist with interviews. Schmechel will review applications and schedule interviews with the top 5/6 candidates.
 - o Watershed Working Group Advisory Committee resolution was presented for signature. Schmitt and Freiburger would like to serve on the Committee as the SWCD representatives.
 - o Schmechel submitted a request to attend the 2020 Leadership for Midwestern Watersheds event. This will be a virtual event and has a \$40 registration fee.
 - o Iowa PBS’s Market to Market will be doing a segment on the Nutrient Reduction Exchange, 28E Agreement, and Commercial Fishing on the Mississippi next week.
 - o Schmechel noted that at the recent Board of Supervisors meeting the supervisors tabled their discussion on how to allocate the counties cost share funding due to Wickham needing to leave the meeting.
 - o The next Water Quality Conference will be moved from Ames and brought to Dubuque. Decision will be made this Friday whether or not the 2021 conference will be held virtually or not. If so, then the Conference will be moved for the 2022 meeting.

20-103 Motion made by Ruden to approve the Watershed Working Group Advisory Committee resolution and appoint Schmitt and Freiburger to serve as SWCD representatives. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

20-104 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the travel expense. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

NRCS Updates: Weiss reported the following:

- Cover crop are being planted and bills are beginning to trickle into the office. Sweeney has been helping with field verification and paperwork.
- 2 EQIP Derecho cover crop applications funded
- Working on CSP applications
- Beth Peterson has been hired as the Epworth Resource Team Lead
- District Conservationist positions are open in the Manchester and Anamosa field offices
- Question was asked about CRP payment rates and Siefken will forward out the rates in an email
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CRP Conservation Plans & Revisions/Conservation Plans: 0 Conservation plans have been reviewed.

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

20-105 Motion made by Demmer to adjourn. Motion seconded by Ruden. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 11, 2020 at 1:00 p.m. at the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Office, Epworth, Iowa.

Melvin Wilgenbusch 11/10/20
Chairperson Date

William Siefken 10/13/20
Secretary Date