

MINUTES OF THE DUBUQUE SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
EPWORTH IA
May 17, 2021

Call Meeting to Order: The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Melvin Wilgenbusch at 6:02 p.m. on the ZOOM platform on May 17, 2021. Those present included Staff: Theresa Weiss, Colleen Siefken & Eric Schmechel; Commissioners: Melvin Wilgenbusch, Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Ron Lindblom & Mike Freiburger; On the call: Ann McDonough - BOS, Harley Pothoff – BOS, Ed Raber.

Adopt Agenda: Being no additions or changes, the agenda was approved as presented:

21-45 Motion made by Demmer to approve the agenda. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting: Wilgenbusch called for a discussion of the April 12, 2021 meeting minutes.

21-46 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

FARMS Program Summary: Current **FARMS '21** Account information:

Program	Balance	Program	Balance
REAPP	\$ 0.00	REAPF/NG	\$ 0.00
Cost Share	\$ 1,569.78		

Cost Share Certifications: Wilgenbusch reviewed the following:

Joseph Ertl Declaration of Trust, #81571, \$3,412.50 cost share amt.
Celester Feldmann, #88423, \$567.00 cost share amt.

21-47 Motion made by Demmer to approve the cost share certifications. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

Cost Share Maintenance Agreements: Wilgenbusch reviewed the following:

Joseph Ertl Declaration of Trust, #81571, 5 ac tree/shrub planting
Celester Feldmann, #88423, 5.4 ac forest stand improvement

21-48 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the Maintenance Agreements. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

WQI No-Till applications: WQI email received allowing CAs to approve No-Till/Strip-Till applications as funding is available. The following have been funded during the month for spring application:

Donald Jecklin, #90901, 142 ac, \$1,420 cost share

1M/Finance:

- April Bank Statement & Treasurer reports were reviewed.
- Additional Bills (not listed on Treasurer's report) to be approved this meeting:
 - Eric Schmechel - #3166 – 9.99 2 TB icloud, #3169 - \$132.44 – Soil Probe & T Post Puller
 - Dubuque Co Road Dept - #3167, \$50.42 – Co office utilities
 - PCI - #3168, \$7,650 – MS4web software
 - Will Hoyer, #3170, \$80.00 – 8 website photos
 - Verizon, ACH, \$201.53 – cell phones/ipad

21-49 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the April Treasurer Reports. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried.

21-50 Motion made by Freiburger to approve payment of additional bills. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Correspondence Received:

- FARMS Audit – no reply from DSC
- CDI Connections Newsletter (April)
- \$1,000 Father Norman White Memorial Scholarship – Megan Funke is winner and will be presented with her award at our August meeting.
- Rickardsville SRF Project has received tentative approval. Public meeting held 5/13/21.
- FY 2022 WQI Program announced – SWCD is currently accepting applications for cover crops to be installed this fall or no/strip-till to be completed next spring. Demmer questioned whether or not SWCD wants to cost share on nitrification inhibitor. To be further discussed in June.

Watershed Project Report: Logo has been decided upon and billboard layouts were reviewed. Tim Daly field day will be held this Friday from 1-3:30 p.m. Supervisors approved an eco-services application for Ashley Hoffman grade stabilization structure, streambank stabilization and buffer strip cost share application. Russ is working on surveying the grade stabilization structure. MS4web software database will be renewed with CPI at a cost of \$7,650 for a 3-year contract. Schmechel will contact City of Asbury to see if they wish to renew their 3 year contract and share the cost with us again. Drone purchase was discussed. Operator will need a 107 license to fly, John is interested in obtaining this license. Will be used for compliance reviews/inspections and video storytelling. Hoping to create a You-tube video channel to highlight watershed activities. Current cost estimates are running approximately \$2,000. Freiburger mentioned the possibility of an infrared option on the camera. Schmechel shared the 8 photos the SWCD purchased from Will Hoyer for \$80. These photos will be used on the Watershed page. Cornerstone Marketing's social media proposal was reviewed. Perhaps with grant funding we would be able to more seriously consider the proposal. Request for Quotes is about to be let by the BOS for the \$600,000 WFPO project. Watershed Conference will be

held this fall in conjunction with Sustainable Dubuque's Conference. The Watershed Conference will be held on October 11th. Hoping to have the guest speaker speak on Carbon Markets. Sustainable Dubuque Conference will run on October 12-13. Travel Dubuque will handle all reservations and fees.

21-51 Motion made by Freiburger to approve spending up to \$2,500 for the drone. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting Updates:

Freiburger reported MR WMA is working on developing their Watershed Management Plan. Being assisted by 5 students from University of Iowa.

Personnel Updates:

None

NRCS Updates: Weiss reported the following:

- General CRP has been extended indefinitely. All CRP on hold as rental rates are being adjusted and incentives are returning.
- 17 EQIP contracts were funding in the first go around of EQIP funding here in Dubuque county. Staff is working on contracting with those. June 11th is the date to have all 2nd round applications ranked.
- NRCS is currently conducting status reviews in the county.

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

21-52 Motion made by Demmer to adjourn. Motion seconded by Lindblom. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, **June 8, 2021** at **6:00 p.m.** for the unforeseeable future on the ZOOM platform.

* Wayne Demmer
Chairperson Date

Colleen Telford 5/20/21
Secretary Date

