

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Dubuque County Building Conference Room

1225 Seippel Road, Dubuque, IA 52002

Call Meeting to Order: The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Demmer on December 11, 2024, at 5:37 pm at the Dubuque County Building Conference Room, 1225 Seippel Road, Dubuque, IA and through Zoom. Those present included Vice Chairperson Jeff Schmitt, and Commissioners Jack Smith, Mike Freiburger and Dennis Rauen, incoming Commissioner Ken Behnke; Bill Meyer, DC; Helen Backes, CA; Watershed staff Eric Schmechel, Scott Hendricks, John Sewell, Allisen Freihage, Dean Matton and Megan Giorgenti, IPC Conservation Planner; Harley Pothoff, County Supervisor; special guest Dr. Adam Hoffman, University of Dubuque. James Martin, NE IA Regional Water Resources Bureau attended via ZOOM.

Adopt Agenda:

A deposit to the Watershed was added to the agenda. Demmer called for a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment.

24-135 Motion was made by Schmitt to approve the agenda with the amendment. 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 November 13, 2024.

24-136 Motion made by Smith to approve the minutes from the previous meeting on November 13, 2024. Motion seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

Demmer introduced incoming Commissioner Ken Behnke to the group. Ken gave a brief biography of himself and was looking forward to being on the SWCD Commission.

Demmer introduced James Martin, NE Regional Water Resources who was attending through ZOOM. James gave a brief presentation on himself, his new position for our area and his role in assisting Dubuque SWCD with our needs and concerns.

Watershed Project Update:

- Schmechel introduced Dean Mattoon. Dean is the new Urban Stormwater Assistant. He is a part-time temporary employee for the Watershed. Previously, Dean was MS4 Management with the City of Dubuque.
- John Sewell introduced Dr Adam Hoffman from the University of Dubuque. Dr Hoffman presented various water sampling data. A lengthy discussion including questions and feedback was held on data presented. Planning for next year, becoming more proactive, best practices in sampling and urban development are areas that will continue to of discussion for the SWCD and Watershed team.
- Schmechel was invited to speak at the upcoming NACD conference at Salt Lake City in February. NACD will pay for travel and lodging expenses.

Demmer called for a motion to approve time and expenses for Schmechel to attend the NACD Conference.

24-137 Motion made by Schmitt to approve time and expenses for Schmechel to attend the NACD Conference. Motion seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

- Schmechel reminded the Commissioners of the December 18 meeting. Recap of Watershed Activities and 28E Agreements will be discussed.
- Hendricks discussed the next Farmer to Farmer meeting on January 8 at Happy's in Dubuque. Topics include RCPP and the Drone Cover Crop project.
- Giorgenti gave a brief update on her activities and progress with the IPC project.

Finance:

- November TR, bank statement & bills presented and reviewed. Backes gave verbal review of the TR. A check for \$500 to the Watershed was received from the Community Foundation of Dubuque. This will be deposited into the Watershed account.

With no further discussion, Demmer called for a motion to approve the November TR, bank statement, & bills presented including the deposit of \$500.

24-138 Motion made by Rauen to approve the November TR; bank statement, & bills presented and deposit. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

- Funds Transfer for NACD payroll for \$2,264.48 to the Watershed checking account.

Demmer called for a motion to transfer payroll funds in the amount of \$2,264.48.

24-139 Motion made by Smith to transfer \$2,264.48 for payroll funds. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- A brief update was held on moving the SWCD and Watershed accounts into some sort of money market account or CD's. No action was taken.
- Backes stated the IPERS Compliance held December 2 was complete and no problems or concerns were found.
- Backes discussed the State Audit completed on December 11. Those in attendance for the audit besides Backes were Shelly Dunnick IDALS State Office and Commissioner Freiburger. A few items were found to be corrected. A formal letter from the State will be forthcoming.

FARMS Summary:

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

- There were no Cost Share Applications, Amendments, Certifications & Maintenance Agreements or Cancellations to approve at this time.
- **WQI Cover Crop Approval** – Backes presented a list of individuals who were eligible for Cover Crop Approval. There are 33 applicants with 2,680.27 acres planted for a cost share of \$58,893.60. See Attachment A.

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

24-140 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the list of applicants for cover crop payments. Motion seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

NRCS Updates:

- Meyers gave a brief update on NRCS. He has been busy with CRP checks.

Correspondence:

- Backes shared with the Commissioners the current CDI Connections Newsletter was available in hard copy for them.

Other:

- On behalf of the Commissioners Demmer expressed his gratitude to Smith, who was retiring at the end of the year, for his commitment to the District and by his conservation practices to promote soil health and improve the water quality for Dubuque County. Smith was presented with a plaque to recognize his serving the Dubuque SWCD.
- Freiburger discussed the idea of signage regarding good stewardship for farmers. This could be a potential source of income for the District. Discussion was tabled for January meeting.

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

24-141 Motion made by Rauen to adjourn. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.

The next regular meeting date will be determined at a later date.

The organizational meeting will be held on January 2, 2025 at 9:00 am

Wayne Demmer 1/23/25
 Chairperson Date

H. Q. Backes 1-23-25
 Secretary Date

Attachment A

Attachment A 12-11-2024

WQI - Cover Crop - SWCD Board Approval									
Date Entered	Last Name	First Name	App #	Obl Acres	Actual Acres	Obl \$\$	Actual \$\$	Date Signed	Board Date
11/19/2024	Brown	Glen	116469	60.07	60.07	\$ 1,201.40	\$1,201.40	12/2/2024	12/11/2024
12/10/2024	Burkle Acres, Inc	Gary Burkle	118673	160	23	\$ 3,200.00	\$460.00	12/6/2024	12/11/2024
11/18/2024	Daly	James	117411	60	60	\$ 1,200.00	\$1,200.00	11/27/2024	12/11/2024
12/10/2024	Decker	Date	116354	20	20	\$ 600.00	\$600.00	12/9/2024	12/11/2024
11/13/2024	Feldman	Amy	117258	100	74.21	\$ 2,000.00	\$1,484.20	11/12/2024	12/11/2024
	Hageman	Mike	116475	40.9	40.89	\$ 817.20	\$817.20	11/8/2024	12/11/2024
12/5/2024	Hannan	Benjamin	122502	50	50	\$ 1,000.00	\$1,000.00	12/3/2024	12/11/2024
11/13/2024	Hodgson	Brian	119828	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$3,200.00	11/20/2024	12/11/2024
12/5/2024	Kauffmann	Jerry	119864	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$3,200.00	12/3/2024	12/11/2024
11/18/2024	Kenneally	Robert	117299	19	18.2	\$ 570.00	\$546.00	12/2/2024	12/11/2024
12/10/2024	Klein	David	116108	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$3,200.00	12/9/2024	12/11/2024
11/13/2024	Klein	Mark	117425	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$3,200.00	11/20/2024	12/11/2024
12/10/2024	Kluesner	Michael	123831	67	67	\$ 1,340.00	\$1,340.00	12/9/2024	12/11/2024
	Knepper	Charles	117244	26	26	\$ 520.60	\$520.60	11/18/2024	12/11/2024
11/20/2024	Langel	Gene	117314	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$3,200.00	11/27/2024	12/11/2024
11/18/2024	Lucas	Robert	117287	46	46	\$ 920.00	\$920.00	12/2/2024	12/11/2024
	Markham	James	118705	14	14	\$ 280.00	\$280.00	12/9/2024	12/11/2024
11/19/2024	Puls	Carol	118702	130	60.3	\$ 2,600.00	\$1,206.00	11/26/2024	12/11/2024
11/20/2024	Schieltz	James	120601	160	160	\$ 4,800.00	\$4,800.00	11/29/2024	12/11/2024
11/20/2024	Schieltz	Tony	120631	160	160	\$ 4,800.00	\$4,800.00	11/29/2024	12/11/2024
11/21/2024	Schmitt	Jason	117263	33	33	\$ 660.80	\$660.80	12/9/2024	12/11/2024
11/21/2024	Schmitt	Jeffery K	118732	160	24.67	\$ 3,200.00	\$493.40	11/26/2024	12/11/2024
12/5/2024	Schmitt	Joseph	117942	160	51	\$ 3,200.00	\$1,020.00	12/4/2024	12/11/2024
11/21/2024	Schmitt	Kathy Jo	118737	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$3,200.00	11/26/2024	12/11/2024
12/5/2024	Schueller	Justin	122675	90	70.64	\$ 2,700.00	\$2,119.20	12/2/2024	12/11/2024
	Soppe	Dennis	120971	30	28.92	\$ 600.00	\$578.40	11/14/2024	12/11/2024
11/20/2024	Tauke	Laverne	116353	30.5	30.5	\$ 609.00	\$609.00	12/2/2024	12/11/2024
	Then	Matthew	119862	80	70.87	\$ 1,600.00	\$1,417.40	12/9/2024	12/11/2024
11/14/2024	Turnis	Alan	117218	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$3,200.00	11/14/2024	12/11/2024

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11/13/2024	Vorwald	Wayne	121512	77	74	\$ 1,540.00	\$1,480.00	11/21/2024	12/11/2024
11/19/2024	Honts	Dawn	121695	100	100	\$ 3,000.00	\$3,000.00	12/9/2024	12/11/2024
12/9/2024	JPT, Inc	Peter Taylor	121515	160	160	\$ 3,200.00	\$3,200.00	12/3/2024	12/11/2024
11/19/2024	Tigges	Michael	117276	37	37	\$ 740.00	\$740.00	11/27/2023	12/11/2024
			Totals	3190.47	2680.27	\$69,299.00	\$58,893.60		
			Difference		510.2		\$10,405.40		

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