

DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

Wednesday, March 19, 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 March 19th at 5:05 pm at the District office and through Zoom. Those present included Commissioners Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Mike Freiburger, Dennis Rauen, Ken Behnke; Helen Backes, CA; Bill Meyer, DC. Attending via Zoom was Ron Miller, Assistant Commissioner. Also in attendance were three University of Dubuque students from the Environmental Policy Class. Special Guest was CDI Scholarship winner Charrisa Heisler and her mother.

Welcome:

Demmer welcomed the scholarship winner, Charrisa Heisler and her mother. Photographs were taken with the Commissioners and the scholarship winner.

Demmer also asked the UD students to introduce themselves to the Commissioners.

Adopt Agenda:

After a review of the agenda, Demmer entertained a motion to approve the agenda.

25-62 Motion was made by Freiburger to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Rauen. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting:

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the February 19th meeting.

25-63 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the minutes from February 19th meeting. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

Finance:

- Backes presented the corrected January TR for approval.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the corrected January TR.

25-64 Motion made by Rauen to approve the corrected January TR. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- February TR, bank statement, deposits and bills were presented and reviewed. Backes gave a verbal review of the TR. A deposit of \$500 was made to the Watershed account. The February funds transfer for NACD employee payroll was \$2,481.42

With no further discussion, Demmer entertained a motion to approve the February TR, bank statement, bills, deposits, and funds transfer presented.

25-65 Motion made by Freiburger to approve the February TR, bank statement, bills, deposits, and funds transfer presented. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion was held on transferring Watershed funds to a CD account at Fidelity Bank & Trust. Commissioners agreed to pursue moving Watershed funds into a CD to earn a higher yield on the account. Backes will meet with Schmechel to determine the amount to transfer to the CD.

State Cost Share/NRCS Updates:

- Meyers presented information to the Commissioners on a State Cost Share Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) application. The State provides low interest loans to the bank who loans the funds to the producer. The bank would require collateral for the loan. Commissioners sign off on the application. Meyers has an application for the RLF that would be in conjunction with a CSP application. If the applicant did not receive the loan, the CSP application would not be feasible. Discussion was held on the RLF.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the RLF.

25-66 Motion by Freiburger to approve the RLF. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

- Discussion was held on if cost share application needs to be recorded. Backes stated that she would look in other counties processes and discuss this with the State. Discussion was also held on Commissioners doing field

checks on the projects that were approved to see if they are still in compliance. They would like to put a procedure in place that would do field checks.

Meeting Updates:

- Rauwen gave a brief presentation on a recent meeting he attended at Sinsinawa. Areas of discussion included poly cropping; Green Acres Milling was present, and Rick Beevers presented on Soil Health. Demmer also attended the conference.
- A Watershed event will be held at the River Museum on April 26th.

Other:

- Backes asked for Commissioner approval on the "District Employee Travel/Training & Supply Reimbursement" policy. An addition was made concerning out of state travel expenses. Also, the Policy Regarding use of Public Funds needs approval for the revision from January 2025.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the policies presented.

25-67 Motion made by Schmitt to approve the policies presented. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously

- Backes updated the Commissioners that CDI resolution submissions must be submitted by March 28.
- Soil and Water Conservation Week is April 28 through May 4. Backes discussed various educational presentations the Watershed will do that week. A trivia night fundraiser for SWCD was discussed. Other items discussed were Supervisor's proclamation, press releases and an outdoor Mass.

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

25-68 Motion made by Schmitt to adjourn. Motion seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

The next regular meeting will be **Wednesday, April 16, 2025 at 7:00 pm** at the District office in Epworth.

Wayne Demmer 4-16-25
Chairperson Date

Hal Backes 4-16-25
Secretary Date