

**Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioner's Meeting**  
**Wednesday September 24, 2025**  
**1225 Seippel Road, Dubuque IA**

**Call Meeting to Order:** The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil and Water Conservation District was called to order by Wayne Demmer on Wednesday, September 24 at 11:33 am at the Dubuque County building conference room. Those in attendance were commissioners Wayne Demmer, Jeff Schmitt, Mike Freiburger, and Ken Behnke. Other attendees included Bill Meyer, DC; Helen Backes, CA; Eric Schmechel, Watershed Director; Scott Hendricks, Watershed Agronomist, and Dean Mattoon, Urban Stormwater Coordinator.

**Adopt Agenda:** Three items were added to the agenda 1) Approve Policy for IFIP Cost Share Cover Crop Funding, 2) Approve two applications for IFIP Cover Crop Funding – Robert Ostwinkle and Michael McDermott, 3) Add to TR – reimbursement to Backes for expenses for Commissioner lunch meeting.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the amended agenda.

**25-148** Motion was made by Schmitt to approve the amended agenda. Motion was seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the minutes from August 20, 2025.

**25-149** Motion made by Freiburger to approve the minutes from August 20, 2025. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

**Finance:**

August TR, bank statement, bills and deposits were presented and reviewed. Demmer commented on the District's debit card use.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the August financial.

**25-150** Motion made by Schmitt to approve August financial. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

Funds Transfer for August – NACD (Tracy's payroll) to Watershed checking account \$2,283.04

**25-151** Motion made by Behnke to approve August funds transfer. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

A discussion was held on District CDs. Options were discussed on the interest from the current CD. Discussion was held on another CD.

Demmer entertained a motion to research and approve moving Watershed funds to a CD

**25-152** Motion made by Freiburger to research and approve moving Watershed funds to a CD. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

Backes reported on the FY 2025 Audit of All Financial Records.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the FY 2025 Audit of All Financial Records.

**25-153** Motion by Freiburger to approve the FY 2025 Audit of All Financial Records. Seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

**FARMS Update:**

Backes updated the group on the status of the State Cost Share Cover Crop Program. There are 157 applicants for a total of \$17,131 acres. There are 24 new applicants who applied for cover crops.

Backes informed the Commissioners of two cover crops applications that came in after the state deadline passed. The District can use up to \$15,000 of their Cost Share funding towards cover crops. The commissioners discussed policy parameters to receive cover crop cost share.

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the policy for Cost Share Cover Crop.

**25-154** Motion made by Schmitt to approve the policy for Cost Share Cover Crop. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

Two applications were received for Cost Share Cover Crop approval

Robert Ostwinkle – 47 acres @ \$25/acre = \$1175

Michael McDermott – 75 acres @ \$20/acre = \$1500

Demmer entertained a motion to approve the two State Cost Share Cover Crop applications.

**25-155** Motion made by Freiburger to approve the two State Cost Share Cover Crop applications. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motioned carried unanimously.

**Watershed:**

Schmechel gave a brief update on the 28E Extension discussion with the Supervisors and cities.

Schmechel discussed a salary increase for the Urban Stormwater Coordinator position. The commissioners would like to reevaluate the salary increase as time was a factor for the group today.

Schmechel asked to approve adding Dean Mattoon i Watch to the T mobile account. Safety concerns and convenience in the field were cited for the addition of the i Watch to the cell phone account. The cost is \$12 per month.

Demmer entertained a motion to add the i Watch to the T Mobile account.

**25-156** Motion made by Schmitt to add the i Watch to the T Mobile account. Motion seconded by Behnke. Motion carried unanimously.

Freiburger and Schmitt left at 12:48

No further action was taken during the meeting.

Schmechel presented a Farmer to Farmer organization update. He also informed the remaining group on the Soil Health Workshop speakers.

Meyer updated everyone on the cultural resources. The State of Iowa is working with the University of Iowa to work on the cultural resources. The funding pools for CSP has been reduced and the ranking process has changed for CSP.

**25-157** Motion made by Behnke to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Demmer. Motion carried unanimously.

Wayne Demmer 12/17/25  
Chairperson Date

Helen Backes 12-17-25  
Secretary Date