

**DUBUQUE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING**  
**June 11, 2024**  
**210 Bierman Road, Epworth IA 52045**

**Call Meeting to Order:** The monthly meeting of the Dubuque Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners was called to order by Chairperson Wayne Demmer at 1:33 pm at the Epworth office. Those present included Commissioners: Wayne Demmer, Mike Freiburger, Jeff Schmitt & Jack Smith, Staff: Bill Meyer, Helen Backes and Sarah Kelchen; Guests: Scott Hendricks and attending by Zoom Allisen Freihage & John Sewell.

**Adopt Agenda:**

The agenda was approved as presented. Demmer requested a motion to approve the agenda. **24-67** Motion was made by Freiburger to approve the agenda. Motion was seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting:**

Demmer called for a motion to approve the minutes from the regular meeting held May 21, 2024 and June 6, 2024 work session.

**24-68** Motion was made by Schmitt to approve the minutes from the meetings held May 21, 2024 & June 6, 2024. Motion was seconded by Freiburger. Motion carried unanimously.

**Watershed Project Update:**

- IPC Grant – Freihage stated the Watershed is in negotiations with NRCS. She sent the information they requested and hopefully will hear back from NRCS in next couple of weeks.

**FARMS Program Summary:**

Current FARMS '24 Account information: REAP P \$916.62 REAP F/NG \$196.15 Cost Share \$16,802.14

**Cost Share Certification and Maintenance Agreement:**

Applicant	Practice ID	Program	Practice	Total Cost Share	Approval Status
Hoefler, John	115945	WQI	No Till	1212.4	Approve payment

Demmer called for a motion to approve the cost share certification and maintenance agreement.

**24-69** Motion was made by Freiburger to approve the cost share certification and maintenance agreement. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

**Finance:**

- May TR, bank statement and bills were summarized by Kelchen. With no further discussion, Demmer called for a motion to approve the May TR, bank statement and bills.

**24-70** Motion was made by Schmitt to approve the May TR, bank statement and bills. Motion was seconded by Jack Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

Demmer asked for a motion to approve the payroll funds transfer of \$1276.73 for 5/24/24 & 6/7/24 payroll.

**24-71** Motion made Smith to approve the funds transfer. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

**Meeting Update:**

- Freihage updated the group on the recent Women In Land & Legacy event that happen on June 8, 2024 at the Field of Dreams. She stated the attendance was good with people from all over the state in attendance. Commissioner Smith was in attendance that day along with Hendricks and Freihage from the Watershed. NRCS was represented by staff Angie Lemke and Julie Hoefler.

- Schmechel has not set a date for a future budget and personnel meeting with the Commissioners.

**NRCS Update:**

- Meyer presented information on other states and the zoning of land from agricultural to commercial. The group held a discussion on the zoning and referred to the discussion at the work session meeting held on June 6, 2024 at the Dubuque County office,

**Correspondence Received:**

- Commissioners and District Conservationist completed the CDI Surveys on the 5 Year planning process. Backes will forward them to Claire Carlson.

- Commissioners voted on the CDI Resolutions. Discussion on some of the items where Commissioners would have liked further clarification on a couple of resolutions. Backes submitted the CDI Resolutions to the CDI office.

- Discussion on the IDALS IFIP funds recall from leftover funds to be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year.

- Extensions for Memorandum of Agreement for NACD and IDALS was requested. Demmer called for a motion to approve the extensions.

**24-72** Motion was made by Freiburger to approve the NACD and IDALS extensions. Motion seconded by Smith. Motion carried unanimously.

- CDI Connections was reviewed.

**Other Business:**

- Discussion by attendees on filling the open commissioner position. There are 3 individuals interested in filling the short-term commissioner position. A brief dialogue between the Commissioners was made regarding an Assistant Commissioner. The Commissioners will select a replacement who is interested in long term commitment to SWCD. Candidates should be interested in running for election in the fall or future elections. The Commissioners were given a candidate profile to be completed by interested persons running for Commissioner. The profile will be submitted to the media prior to elections to inform and promote SWCD and its mission statement.

- Hendricks from the Watershed is producing their newsletter and was interested if the Commissioners would like to add to the newsletter.

- Freiburger brought up the need for education for landowners and operators to promote practices and funding available to promote soil conservation. With the recent rains, there has been a lot of soil loss. It was noted that where practices used by Smith and Schmitt resulted in less soil loss.

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

**24-73** Motion made by Freiburger to adjourn. Motion seconded by Schmitt. Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next meeting to be determined.

Wayne Demmer 7/23/24  
Chairperson Date

Hel Backes 7.23.24  
Secretary Date