

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, May 7th, 2020, 10:00 A.M**  
**Conference Call Only**

**Minutes for May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

SSCWQC Members Called In

Paula Ellis, Kevin Pope, Dennis Carlson, Colleen Miller, Sherman Lundy

DSCWQ Staff Called in

Susan Kozak, Jake Hansen, Will Myers, Vince Sitzmann, Nicky Gubbels, Kate Bussanmas

Partners Present

Kurt Simon (NRCS), Jamie Benning (ISU), John Whitaker (CDI), Larry Roehl (ENG), Steve Hopkins (DNR)

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

**2020-21** Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2020-22** Ellis moved to approve the April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Field Services staff have been working with partner agencies and commissioners to discuss the impacts that COVID-19 will have on operations.
- Tony Toigo has resigned his position within the Bureau. We are in the process of assessing his former duties as well as new options over the coming weeks.
- Currently working to fill several vacancies including CA positions located in Dallas and Webster County.
- 8 SWCD's have received over \$250k in grant funding for FY21 through priority funding.

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- 7 projects are currently open with construction going well and looking to wrap up a couple projects soon.
- There have been 3-4 minor emergencies in the last 3 months, some taking place in crop fields.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- WRCC meeting has been set for the afternoon of Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> and will be held virtually.
- Water Resources staff have spent a lot of time in the field during telework status working on; siting edge of field practices and completing land use, tillage assessments, and ACPF modeling.

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- DSCWQ staff are in telework status until at least May 15<sup>th</sup>
- IDALS created a Resources Coordination Center (RCC) in response to mass animal mortality needs.
- Staff drafted and rolled out the WQI statewide cost share announcement for this year.
- IDALS Food Bank Committee to develop a virtual donation center.
- Soil and Water Conservation week was a success with many outreach items happening.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

- Working on what to do in concerns with annual conference.
- Proposed a Joint SSCWQC/CDI meeting in June.
- Moving poster contest to later in the year.

Engineers – Roehl

- Routine spring work is being done as well as construction activities.
- Seeing normal Ag. Traffic.

### Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- DNR TMDL Program to host online meetings to discuss statewide lake bacteria plan. The presentation will be available on the Iowa DNR's YouTube channel through May 18<sup>th</sup>. All public comments are due by May 18<sup>th</sup> to Jeff Berckes. After comments are gathered DNR will forward the final plan to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for approval.
- The Watershed improvement is still soliciting new EPA section 319 funding requests. The due date for the new requests is May 15<sup>th</sup> 2020.
- We are extending state park closures through at least May 8<sup>th</sup>
- DNR will continue telework till the end of May.

### Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted items in her report;

- ISU extension and outreach now has a Covid-19 resource website that has a collection of resources for farmers, communities, businesses, families, and individuals.
- There are new scientific coloring books available through the ISU Extension Store.
- Iowa Learning Farms has scheduled weekly webinars on Wednesday s at noon through the end of May. The webinars will also be recorded and archived on the ILF website, so they can be watched at any time.

### Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

### Natural Resources Conservation Service – Simon

Verbal report only;

- Service centers are still open.
- Additional guidance for moving forward should be given in the next few weeks.
- Working hard on animal disposal (RCC) with the following options being given;
  - Bury
  - Compost
  - Incineration
  - Rendering – impound
- Many new employees will be starting soon.

### Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
  - Gubbels provided an update on all of the current grants.
  - 2021 R&D Grant application will be reviewed by the District Operations Subcommittee in the next few weeks.
- Soil Loss Limit review – Allamakee SWCD

**2020-23** Lundy moved to approve the proposed soil loss amendment; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy-Ag line testing, running into concerns to be discussed with ISU. Things are going well in the area.
- Miller- Corn and beans are in the ground.
- Ellis- Still planting, close to being done. Little behind due to the snow and rain.
- Farnham- Most corn and beans planted. Have been getting a lot of rain, but would still welcome more.
- Pope- Great soil conditions this spring, could use more rain. Seeing some Morell mushrooms popping up.
- Carlson- Seeds planted a month earlier this year than last. Seeing a lot of no-till and cover crops planted.

### Adjournment

Pope adjourned the meeting at 11:03 a.m.