

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, July 2nd, 2020, 10:00 A.M
Conference Call Only

Minutes for July 2nd, 2020

SSCWQC Members Called In

Kevin Pope, Paula Ellis, Dennis Carlson, Colleen Miller, Sherman Lundy, Steve Hofmann, Patti Ruff

DSCWQ Staff Called in

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

Partners Present

John Whitaker (CDI), Steve Hopkins (DNR), Alan Bonini

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

2020-24 Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Ruff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2020-25 Lundy moved to approve the May 7th, 2020 meeting minutes; Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Many offices are entering a phased return, we will continue to make adjustments to workflow processes as conditions develop.
- IDALS sent guidance to Districts interested in applying for part-time techs through the 780 program. Applications for FY21 are due July 24th.
- Field Services is working to refill recent vacancies for CA positions in 5 counties, there is also 2 Tech position to be filled as well.

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Mines and Minerals were able to close out 2 of the 7 open projects.
- The scheduled field day for July 15th has been cancelled. Staff will look for alternative opportunities.
- Randy Cooney completed the 2020/21 AML grant to the Office of Surface Mining and was awarded \$2.823M.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Wetland initiatives has a total of 31 projects that are under development. Another 50 sites are in stages of prelim design and permitting.
- 51 nominations for the 2020 IFELA awards were accepted. Any nominations received now will be considered for recognition in 2021.

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Scott Shifflett was nominated as June's Employee of the Month.
- DSCWQ Staff working on a phased approach back into the office, at this time only 8-9 people are in the office at a time. There will be no field days and meetings will be held via conference call.
- Legislature approved budget starting July 1st. REAP was also extended for 2 more years.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

- Planning Coordinator position in NE Iowa has been filled, their first day will be on July 20th.
- Annual conference will now be held virtually, as of right now we are not currently planning to charge a fee for virtual attendance.

Engineers – Roehl

- No Report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Fisheries Biologist Ben Wallace earned the American Fisheries Society Award of Merit, Ben was the primary DNR partner working on the Black Hawk Lake Watershed Project.
- Telework has been extended till the end of July.
- The 319 EPA Grant will be awarding 2.2 mil for watershed projects.

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning was unable to attend, Kozak shared the item she requested to be highlighted;

- Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy 2018-2019 annual report was released.

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Simon

- No Report

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
 - Gubbels provided an update on current grants.
- SSCWQC Award Nomination;

2020-26 Lundy moved to approve the two previously discussed nominees proposed by the committee; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy- Some nasty weather with a lot of rain causing damage to some areas. Beans and corn doing great.
- Miller- Crops look exceptional. We have seen a lot of monarchs around Buena Vista County. So far the county fair is still happening.
- Ellis- Need the rain to take a break. Corn is looking good.
- Farnham- Things have been dry, we could use some rain. Even with the lack of rain crops are still looking ok.
- Pope- Good amount of rain. The corn is coming along nicely, and we are also seeing a lot of butterflies.
- Carlson- There has been a lot of rain. Everything is growing well.
- Hofmann- Crops are looking good. Seen some ponds being built in the area.

Adjournment

Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:51 a.m.

Kevin Pope, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director