

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, January 7th, 2021, 10:00 A.M

Minutes for January 7th 2021

SSCWQC Members Called In

Kevin Pope, Sherman Lundy, Dennis Carlson, Patti Ruff, Dale Farnham, Margaret McQuown, Steve Hofmann

DSCWQ Staff Called In

Vince Sitzmann, Lori Lewis, Kate Bussanmas, Jake Hansen, Will Myers, Susan Kozak

Partners Called In

John Whitaker (CDI), Dennis Carney (CDI), Steve Konrady (DNR), Jamie Benning (ISU), Jon Hubbert (NRCS), Scott Cagle (NRCS)

Other Called In

Patrick Chase

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

2021-1 Farnham moved to approve the agenda; Lundy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2021-2 Farnham moved to approve the December 3rd, 2020 meeting minutes; Lundy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Subcommittee Report

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

- IDALS and NRCS are working together to update the Soil Loss Limits for 30 counties for this year.
- Due dates for the districts to submit their priority ranking systems for the distribution of IFIP and REAP allocations will be in late February.
- We are currently busy with collection year-end voluntary recalls, fund allocations, and supplemental funding requests. REAP funds will be prioritized to windbreak repairs.

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Staff is continuing to provide support to a dangerous lead mine subsidence in Dubuque that is within a residential area. Along with Secretary Naig we have decided to seek approval to work on this project. Along with the governor's approval, it is required to get State Committee approval to work on a site that is non coal related. It is estimated that this projects will cost around 100k, this will not require additional funds. It will be supported through the Mines and Minerals budget.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- At the last meeting the Iowa Core of Engineers mentioned that they have lock and dam 14 and are looking into holding an event for people that are interested. If anyone on the committee is interested please contact Jake Hansen as it is an invitation only event.

Director's Report - Kozak

Bussanmas highlighted the following items in Kozak's report;

- The COVID-19 calls seem to be slowing down a little.
- The fish and Wildlife Service came out with their official listing decision last month. With this the monarch butterfly is warranted for listing but precluded. This is good news for the monarch.
- Everyone is working on year end meetings and reports for the legislature.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

- The CDI Executive Committee has offered to pay the registration fee for all commissioners in Iowa to attend the NACD virtual meeting to be held on February 1st-10th.
- CDI is working on putting together a series of training videos.
- Annual Conference Planning committee will be meeting soon to start discussion.

Engineers –

No Report Given

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Konrady

Konrady highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Supervisor Allan Bonini, with be retiring on January 21st. There will be a Zoom retirement party held on Friday, January 15th.
- DNR has hired Ethan Thies as the Black Hawk Water Coordinator and Josh Balk as the Dry Run Creek Water Coordinator.

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted the following topics in her report;

- We are continuing to hold weekly webinars at noon. Last week’s session went very well and was well attended. If there are every any topics you would like featured please feel free to reach out.
- Iowa Water conference will be held virtually April 6-7th.

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Hubbert

Hubbert highlighted the following items in his report;

- NRCS is rolling out several programs in rapid fashion (see report for list)
- EWP is still working on flood repairs, to date expending a little over \$6.5 million.
- The NRCS budget will still be tight due to reduced allocations and the new staffing investment.

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
 - Gubbels provided an update on current grants.
 - Grant Extension Request – 18Southfork
 - Grant Extension Request – 20UNI

2021-3 Lundy moved to approve both 18Southfork and 20UNI Grant Extension Requests. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Dubuque Subsidence issue

2021-4 McQuown made a motion to move forward with the reclamation of the subsidence in Dubuque. Farnham Seconded. Motion Carried unanimously

- Soil Loss Limit Values
 - Patrick Chase reviewed the changes made in Soil Loss Limits plan with the committee

2021-5 Hoffman moved to approve the proposed changes to the Soil Loss Limits. Lundy Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee – 5 Year Plan Review
 - Benton County
 - Linn County

2021-6 Lundy moved to approve both the Linn and Benton County 5 year plans. Hoffman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Vacancies
 - Adams- Recommendation to appoint David Lundquist to fill the unexpired term of William Shiply
 - Calhoun- Recommendation to appoint Shannon Potts to fill the current vacancy.
 - Hardin- Recommendation to appoint John Everly to fill the current vacancy.

2021-6 Lundy moved to approve the three appointments listed above. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2021-7 McQuown moved to approve the Clinton and Washington Soil Loss amendments. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy- Things are looking good; overall a good year.
- Farnham- Not much going on in the area; everyone is in their winter funk.
- McQuown- With the snow storm and rain fall there is not much going on.
- Ruff- Not a lot happening in the area, had a couple days with fog. Leaves are covering the ground but no frost yet.
- Hofmann- There is a lot of designing going on in the Ringgold and Decatur offices.
- Pope- The fog in the area has been unbelievable. Tile work was being done up until Christmas Eve.
- Carlson- It was a great Christmas tree season with 3 inches of snow and a beautiful frost.

Pope adjourned the meeting at 11:14 a.m.

Kevin Pope, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director