

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, October 1st, 2020, 10:00 A.M
Conference Call Only

Minutes for October 1st 2020

SSCWQC Members Called In

Kevin Pope, Colleen Miller, Paula Ellis, Sherman Lundy, Patti Ruff, Dale Farnham, Dennis Carlson, Margaret McQuown

DSCWQ Staff Called In

Susan Kozak, Jake Hansen, Nicky Gubbels, Kate Bussanmas

Partners Called In

John Whitaker (CDI), Steve Hopkins (DNR), Scott Cagle (NRCS) Jamie Benning (ISU)

Guests

Robert Zimmerman

Other Called In

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

Ellis requested that the agenda item "Subcommittee Reports" be moved to the top of the agenda to accommodate a scheduling conflict.

2020-36 Lundy moved to approve the amended agenda; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2020-37 Lundy moved to approve the September 3rd, 2020 meeting minutes; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Subcommittee Report

- DO Subcommittee- East Pottawattamie 5 year plan review
 - Ellis shared the discussion the subcommittee had and suggested moving forward with the proposed 5 Year Plan upon a few minor changes being made.

2020-38 Ellis moved to approve the East Pottawattamie 5 year plan. Lundy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

Kozak highlighted the following topics in Myers report;

- Field Services will be opening up applications for next year's internships. Staff will attend career fairs to advertise these opportunities.
- IDALS hired 31 PT technicians for FY21 through the 780 program. 24 of these employees have already started and the remaining are in the hiring process.

Mines and Minerals – Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following topics in Sitzmann's report;

- Sitzmann and staff are at a dry lime stone quarry that will be taking woodchips caused by Derecho.
- 3 projects have gone to bid with a combined savings of \$350k.

Water Resources - Kozak

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- IFELA has approved 42 recipients for the award and they will be recognized during the 2021 ceremony to be held at the Iowa State Fair.
- Hansen will be attending the virtual meeting of the upper Mississippi River Basin Association on Friday, October 16th.
- Iowa Ag Mitigation Inc received NRCS funding to look at wetland mitigation banking.

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Ben Roed was awarded the September employee of the month.
- Kozak and Bussanmas have been spending time on COVID-19 responses and questions.
- Kozak has been participated in a Monarch Consortium Meeting.
- Various funding opportunities are available through several programs. See report for details.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

- Dennis Carney was re-elected as President, however Jack Boyer decided not to seek reelection as Vice President.
- A new Planner in NW Iowa was hired.

Engineers –

No Report Given

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- EPA approved the FFY20 section 319 Grant. This grant includes \$1.733 million in funding for 10 watershed projects.
- The DNR Watershed Improvement program is expanding its Basin Coordinator network from 2 to 3 Basins.

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted the following topics in her report;

- New study reinforces need for monarch butterfly milkweed habitat.
- ISU Extension has created and compiled many helpful resources and information to help those impacted by Derecho.
- There will be a new virtual series that combines Integrated Crop Management and Crop Advantage.

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Cagle

- There are 5 NRCPP projects receiving a total of 40 million dollars in federal funds.
- Still working through the Emergency Watershed Protection program to help those affected by the floods.
- Jon Hubbert is now the new NRCS State Conservationist effective October 11th.

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
 - Gubbels provided an update on current grants.
- Subcommittee Assignments
 - Kozak reviewed current assignments. Committee assignments will be adjusted accordingly and sent out to the committee for final approval

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Appointments
 - Marshall – Recommendation to appoint Justin Adelmund to fill the unexpired term of Troy Hibbs.

2020-35 Lundy moved to approve the appointment listed above; Carlson seconded. Approved unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy- Harvest started. Soybeans and some corn are being harvested. Seeing some cover crop being seeded.
- Miller- We are seeing a lot of good bean yields. With rain we are starting to see some cover crop pop up.
- Farnham- Harvest started with corn and soybeans. The yields have been ok so far considering the current conditions.
- Ruff- Harvest has started. There has been rain on and off for the last 2 weeks. Starting to see some cover crops sprout.
- McQuown- Southwest Iowa harvest started. Yields are varied due to uneven rain spread.
- Carlson- Ground water isn't good. Trees are starting to change color. Seeing some fungal and insect problems in the trees due to drought.
- Pope- Harvest is slowly starting with intermittent rain. Looks as if yield should be good considering the lack of rain.

Pope adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.