

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020, 10:00 A.M**  
**Conference Call Only**

**Minutes for November 5<sup>th</sup> 2020**

SSCWQC Members Called In

Kevin Pope, Paula Ellis, Sherman Lundy, Patti Ruff, Dale Farnham, Margaret McQuown, Steve Hofmann

DSCWQ Staff Called In

Vince Sitzmann, Nicky Gubbels, Kate Bussanmas

Partners Called In

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

Guests

Other Called In

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

**2020-40** Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Ruff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2020-41** Lundy moved to approve the October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes; Ruff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Subcommittee Report

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Bussanmas

Bussanmas highlighted the following topics in Myers report;

- We are currently assessing the cost-share program data for FY20 expenditures. We are seeing the highest number of contracts paid ever this year as well as the second highest number of expenditures.
- IDALS received 17 applications from SWCD's who are interested in hosting an intern for next summer.

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- There are 3 new projects currently in the design phase, and things are moving along smoothly.
- The GIS database is approximately 95% complete.

Water Resources -Bussanmas

Bussanmas highlighted the following topics in Hansen's report;

- There are currently 10 wetland projects that are under construction in varying phases.
- 21 Ag. Drainage wells remain that are registered with the DNR. Iowa legislature appropriated \$1.875 toward AWD, this should be enough to complete the program in 2021/2022.

Director's Report - Kozak

Bussanmas highlighted the following items in Kozak's report;

- Kozak and Bussanmas have been spending time on COVID-19 responses and questions.
- Kozak held a "Safety Break" call with field staff to remind everyone to keep safety as a priority. There were 2 UTV fires related to field work last month.
- 2021 WQI Cover Crop program sign up is now open.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

- Sign up for the S.T.A.R program is now on the CDI website.
- NACD will be hosting their Annual Conference virtually.

Engineers –

No Report Given

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- DNR will be converting two 319 watershed coordinator positions to permanent status; for the Black Hawk Lake and Dry Run Creek projects.
- Dry Run Creek now boasts a new watershed sign.
- The Silver Creek watershed was accepted as a 319 Nonpoint Source Success Story.

#### Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted the following topics in her report;

- A newsletter was published to inform those about management of fish populations in ponds.
- Iowa Learning Farms will be hosting more virtual field days, see listed dates in report.
- There are several ISU extension events coming up listed in the report.
- Iowa Water Conference has been officially moved to a virtual event, the dates will be determined soon.

#### Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

#### Natural Resources Conservation Service – Cagle

- Several RCCP funds have been submitted for review.
- Watershed planning operation is now underway.
- EWPPR, DSR has obligated 16 million in funds for repair, those repairs are now underway.

#### Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
  - Gubbels provided an update on current grants.
- Subcommittee Assignments
  - Bussanmas reviewed current assignments. No changes were made to the latest draft.
- 2021 meeting schedule
  - Committee reviewed the 2021 schedule.

#### SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

#### SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy- Soybeans are all out and corn is about ¾ done. Cover Crops are starting to pop up, it's the most we have ever seen in the area.
- Farnham- There is not a whole lot to report in the area. Everything is moving along as expected.
- Ruff- Some harvesting is still going on due to rain. A lot of grain is being moved and stored now.
- McQuown- Soy beans are 100% harvested, corn is at about 60%.
- Ellis- Harvest is done. Some tile works is being done. Corns is very dry. We are starting to see cover crops popping up.
- Hofmann- This has been the best corn crop we have had in a long time. Not seeing any cover crops peek through yet. Work with cattle has started.
- Pope- Most crops have been harvested, corn was very dry. We are seeing a lot of dirt work and tiling being done.

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

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Kevin Pope, SSCWQC Chair

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Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director