

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 10:00 A.M**

**Minutes for February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

SSCWQC Members Called In

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

DSCWQ Staff Called In

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

Partners Called In

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

Other Called In

Rodrigo Acevedo, Stephan Gailans, Matthew Dvorak, John Ottman

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

**2021-9** Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2021-10** Lundy moved to approve the January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Subcommittee Report

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

- IDALS is encouraging districts to consider options for lengthening the construction season for projects that were not completed within targeted timelines.
- IDALS is targeting priority summer construction funds through IFIP.
- 15 District sponsored internship applications have been approved in 2021.

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- There are currently 3 active projects. The seeding on the Waechter project will take place in the spring.
- The 2018 AML grant has been fully expended and the 2019 grant is anticipated to be expended in spring/early summer.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Wetland initiatives currently has 5 projects that are under construction and in various phases.
- There are plans to celebrate the completion of the 100<sup>th</sup> CREP wetland site in 2021.
- Both Humboldt and Wright County continue to work on ag drainage well closures.

Director's Report - Kozak

Bussanmas highlighted the following items in Kozak's report;

- February's employee of the month is Nicky Gubbels.
- WQI is currently working on writing up yearend reports.
- Spring Regionals will be held soon virtually.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

- The WET position is now open for another round of interviews after an initial offer was declined.
- Spring regionals will be held the first week of March.

Engineers –

No Report Given

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Konrady highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Steve Hopkins is now the DNR Interim Source Water Coordinator.

- Matt Dvorak will be the future Source Water Coordinator.
- The Source Water Coordinator position in Decorah is currently open. Whiterock conservancy will be posting a position as well.

#### Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted the following topics in her report;

- The 2020 Iowa Farm and Rural Life Poll shows that Farmer’s beliefs on climate change are shifting. See article included in report.
- ISU is continuing to offer many virtual event through weekly webinars and virtual field days.

#### Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

#### Natural Resources Conservation Service – Hubbert

Hubbert highlighted the following items in his report;

- RCPP arrangement agreements have been submitted for final review.
- WFPO for watershed planning for Dubuque County and Clarke County are being developed. Linn County has been awarded Preliminary Investigation.
- EWP has 54 agreements in place.
- EQUIP – Derecho Disaster has completed 126 contacts and 16 remaining.

#### Business

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

**2021-11** Lundy moved to approve 19IGS Grant Extension Request. Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Update on 2022 R&D Grant Call for Proposals
  - Kozak discussed that she will be working on some proposed changes to the application to review with the District Operations subcommittee prior to the March meeting.

#### Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee report – 5 year plan review: Fayette, Grundy

**2021-12** Ellis moved to approve both the Fayette and Grundy County 5 year plans. McQuown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- SWM Subcommittee report – Soil Loss update: Fayette, Floyd, Greene, Madison, Mills, Pocahontas, Scott, Shelby, Wayne, & Winneshiek

**2021-13** Lundy moved to approve the proposed changes to the Soil Loss Limits. Hofmann Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Vacancies
  - Cerro Gordo – Recommendation to appoint Dennis Carney to fill the unexpired term of Rebecca Higgins
  - Hardin – Recommendation to appoint John Everly to fill current vacancy (missed 10 day oath window)
  - Marion – Recommendation to appoint Justin Jordan to fill the unexpired term of Gray Kingery
  - Tama – Recommendation to appoint Jan Woberter to fill current vacancy
  - Woodbury – Recommendation to appoint Ted Bromander to fill the unexpired vacancy of Charlie Bromander

**2021-14** Lundy moved to approve the listed appointments. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy- Participated in virtual PFI concerning soil health.
- Farnham- Nothing new to report other than some snow.
- McQuown- Doing repairs needed due to high winds. Seeing a lot of grain being hauled.
- Ruff- Not much happening due to heavy snow fall.
- Hofmann- Hoping for the ground to freeze. People are beginning to plan for spring.
- Pope- Trying to get some grain moved and book work finished.
- Carlson- There has been some tree removal done due to disease.
- Ellis – Trying to keep busy with book work and meetings.

- Colleen – Winter work is being done, emptying grain bins and preparing for the extreme cold.

Pope adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

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Kevin Pope, SSCWQC Chair

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Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director