

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, April 1st, 2021, 10:00 A.M

Minutes for April 1st, 2021

SSCWQC Members Called In

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

DSCWQ Staff Called In

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

Partners Called In

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

Other Called In

Matt Bormann

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

2021-20 Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2021-21 Lundy moved to approve the March 4th, 2021 meeting minutes; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- IDALS is inviting the SWCDs to apply for Publicly Owned Lakes (POL) priority cost-share funding.
- We are continuing to solicit SWCD interest for Summer Construction Incentive funding.
- Development of FARMS continues. Target launch date is currently July 1st.
- The Central Office welcomes their new Urban Conservationist, Cassie Druhl.

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- There are three green up inspections on projects currently.
- We are waiting to hear from the city of Dubuque in regards to the 28E agreement.
- Kozak provided testimony at the Federal Legislative Hearing on AML bills.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The Iowa Water Conference will be held virtually on April 7-9th.
- Hansen participated in a virtual meeting about updates on levee repairs, re-certification of repaired levees, and long-term maintenance of upgrades levees.

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Employee of the month is Jan McClurg, a Conservation Assistant in Scott County.
- Staff wrapped up Spring Regional meetings.
- Kozak testified at a US House of Representatives subcommittee meeting regarding AML reauthorization.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The committee will be meeting to determine the number of breakouts and further planning for Annual Conference.
- CDI has been speaking with districts within the S.T.A.R pilot area to make a last push before spring planting to sign up additional fields.
- Offers for both the Wetland Easement Team Specialist in Sioux City and the Private Lands Wildlife Specialist in Garner.

Engineers –

No Report Given

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Becky Schwiete the Environmental Specialist Senior retires on March 31st.
- In FFY20 watershed projects funded through DNR collectively completed 362 Best Management Practices.

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted the following topics in her report;

- The Conservation Station Trailers will be available for summer fair season.
- The wetland trailer will debut on May 27th at Ada Hayden Heritage Park.
- Virtual Iowa Water Conference registration is open.

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Cagle

Cagle highlighted the following items in his report;

- The 2021 RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangement requests for proposals was announced on March 16th.
- ICP and State CIG grant application awards are pending budget allocations.
- Currently developing “Conservation for New Employees” for 80+ new hires.

Presentations

- DNR-Annual report, progress made to implement the Nonpoint Source Management Plan. Hopkins reviewed the report with the committee.

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
 - Gubbels shared an extension request for 20ISU.

2021-22 Lundy moved to approve the extension request for 20ISU. Carlson seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

- Selection of new SSCWQC Chair (Miller nominated) and Vice Chair (Hofmann nominated)

2021-23 Lundy moved to approve the appointment of Colleen Miller as the committee chair and Steve Hofmann as vice chair. McQuown seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee report
 - 5 Year plan: Buchanan, Cerro Gordo, Dubuque, Franklin & Winneshiek

2021-24 Ellis moved to approve the above listed 5 year plans. Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- SWM Subcommittee Report:
 - Soil Loss Amendments – Hamilton, Henry, Van Buren, Wapello

2021-25 Lundy moved to approve the above Soil Loss Limits amendments. Hofmann Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Vacancies
 - Des Moines – Recommendation to appoint Bob Hinson to fill the unexpired term of Troy Nelson

2021-26 Lundy moved to approve the listed appointments. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy- Some fertilizer and ammonia are being put on fields.
- McQuown- Still pretty cold but it looks like it will be warming up. People are preparing to for spring work.
- Hofmann- Some fertilizer going on but a lot still needs to be done. Also dealing with a beaver dam problem.
- Pope- Starting to spread fertilizer. People are itching to get in the fields. Cover crops are looking good.
- Carlson- First signs of spring are here. It is now tree planting season.
- Miller- NW Iowa is still very dry. Cover crops are coming up nicely.

Pope adjourned the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Kevin Pope, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director