

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 10:00 A.M**

**Minutes for May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

SSCWQC Members Called In

Colleen Miller, Dennis Carlson, Dale Farnham, Steve Hofmann, Paula Ellis, Patti Ruff, John Tuthill, Matt Bormann

DSCWQ Staff Called In

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

Partners Called In

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

Other Called In

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**2021-27** Ellis moved to approve the agenda; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2021-28** Ellis moved to approve the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Introductions

- Matt Bormann and John Tuthill being newly appointed committee members introduced themselves and were introduced to the other members on the committee.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Applications for SWCD's to apply for POL cost-share funding are due April 1<sup>st</sup>
- NACD is offering an RFP funding for new SWCDs to apply for technical assistance funding, apps are due June 6<sup>th</sup>
- IDALS has approved applications for 15 internships in 2021

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- There are currently 3 active projects that are nearing their end
- Mines and Minerals will be applying for grants for continued funding
- The agreement for the Dubuque emergency lead mine subsidence will be presented to the Dubuque city council on May 17.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The next WRCC meeting will be on June 18<sup>th</sup>, and will held virtually.
- The deadline for nominations for the IFELA has been extended to May 24<sup>th</sup>

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- The May employee of the month was awarded to Katie Van Dooren
- Staff calls were held again to review guidance related to COVID-19. We are now allowing staff to participate in small, outdoor training field days on a case-by-case basis.
- This week the proclamation for Soil and Water Conservation Week was signed by the Governor

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- A total of 48 teams participated in the 2021 virtual Envirothon contest held on April 26<sup>th</sup>
- The national Envirothon will be held virtually again this year
- The annual conference planning committee narrowed the breakout sessions down from 16 to 8

Engineers –

No Report Given

#### Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Section 319 watershed funding requests are due May 15<sup>th</sup>
- With widespread tree loss across the state more Iowans are planting trees so DNR produced a new video to help people learn how to properly plant trees and avoid common mistakes.

#### Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted the following topics in her report;

- ISU has now adopted a more relaxed mask protocol, they are no longer required at outside events.
- The ISU design program created a 10-part article series called Iowa's Nature, designed to showcase Iowa's biological and geological diversity.
- Iowa Learning Farms wetland trailer will debut on May 27<sup>th</sup>

#### Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

#### Natural Resources Conservation Service – Cagle

Cagle highlighted the following items in his report;

- Iowa tentatively received 3 new RCPP classic awards, these agreements will bring a little over \$16 million in funding for conservation efforts.
- Request for proposals for National CIG will be open until June 21<sup>st</sup>
- EWP has completed 42 agreements obligated for the 2019 flood recovery

#### Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
  - Gubbels is currently collecting reports for the end of the quarter as well as new incoming grant applications

#### Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee report:
  - 5 Year plan – Hardin & Mitchell County

**2021-29** Ellis moved to approve the 5 year plans listed above. Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- SWM Subcommittee Report:
  - Soil Loss Amendments – Crawford & Sioux County

**2021-30** Hofmann moved to approve the above Soil Loss Limits amendments. Carlson Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Vacancies
  - Fayette – Recommendation to appoint Don Bahe to fill current vacancy
  - Humboldt– Recommendation to appoint Reed Burres to fill current vacancy

**2021-31** Hofmann moved to approve the listed appointments. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### SSCWQC Member Reports

- Bormann- Its dry in the area, planting however is ahead of schedule. The heavy winds have been affecting the spraying process.
- Farnham- Some early corn and beans planted. We also have been pretty dry in the area.
- Ruff- Still dry. The Mississippi may be facing some major algae issues.
- Hofmann- Dry, some corn has went in early. Just finishing up some spring conservation.
- Carlson- 1,000 Christmas trees have been planted for the season. Most of the corn looks to be planted.
- Miller- In need of some moisture, however crops appear to be mostly planted.

It was discussed that the “June” meeting will be held on May 27<sup>th</sup> at Ada Hayden Heritage Park prior to the ILF new trailer reveal.

Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:22 a.m.