

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, 10:00 A.M**  
**GoTo Meeting**

**Minutes for July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021**

SSCWQC Members

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

DSCWQ Staff

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

Partners Present

John Whitaker (CDI), Dennis Carney (CDI), Catherine Delong (ISU), Jon Hubbert (NRCS), Steve Hopkins (DNR)

Other Called In

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

**2021-37** Tuthill moved to approve the agenda; Ruff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2021-38** Hoffman moved to approve the May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting minutes; Tuthill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- REAP will continue to offer opportunities to counties impacted by derecho to repair windbreaks
- 35 SWCDs are participating in the opportunities to contract a 780 tech
- The new FARMS project is still underway, estimated to be completed July 2021

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Staff is working with Pathfinders to submit a grant to increase Monarch butterfly habitat.
- Currently working with Senator Ernst's office to schedule a field visit on July 24<sup>th</sup> in Davis County

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- There have been 50 nominations for the IFELA awards
- Hansen will be participating in a drought focused webinar on July 1<sup>st</sup>

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Staff toured DSM Water Works and participated in calls on drought awareness
- Selected for funding for EPA-GOM project
- Submitted RCPP-Alternative Funding Arrangement proposal to NRCS

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- All the speakers for Annual Conference webinars have been chosen
- Half of the 5 year plans are anticipated to be completed by December

Engineers –

No Report Given

### Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- DNR Water Quality Bureau to realign several different water quality programs to take effect July 1<sup>st</sup>
- A celebration was held in honor of the life of former DNR Director Paul Johnson
- The position of former Director Allan Bonini is now posted

### Iowa State Extension – Delong

Delong highlighted the following topics in her report;

- A field day focusing on the science of weed control will be held on July 8<sup>th</sup>
- Other upcoming field day opportunities are listed in the report

### Leopold Center – Farnham

Farnham highlighted the following topic in his report;

- Director Rasmussen announced his retirement from the Leopold Center

### Natural Resources Conservation Service – Hubbert

Cagle highlighted the following items in his report;

- LiDAR data collection flights have been completed for the entire state
- CRP funding will be released to NRCS in the near future
- Staffing levels at the Field Offices are at 50% and 25% at the Area and State Offices

### Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
  - Gubbels gave an update on all active grants
- Annual Conference Awards
  - The committee discussed and nominated Kevin Pope, Sherman Lundy, and Jamie Benning to receive service awards at Annual Conference

**2021-39** Tuhill moved to approve the nominations for Annual Conference. Hofmann seconded. Motion approved unanimously.

- CREP 100<sup>th</sup> site ground breaking
  - The committee made the decision to hold the September meeting in Buena Vista County for the CREP Ground Breaking event

**2021-40** Hofmann moved to approve the September meeting be held in Buena Vista County. Ruff seconded. Motion approved unanimously

### Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee report:
  - 5 Year plan – Plymouth County

**2021- 41** Miller moved to approve the 5 year plan listed above. Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- SWM Subcommittee Report:
  - Soil Loss Amendments – Dallas & Osceola

**2021-42** Hofmann moved to approve the above Soil Loss Limits amendments. Farnham Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- SSCWQC grant application review – The committee reviewed the applications the subcommittee suggested for funding and agreed with their proposals

**2021-43** Miller moved to approve funding for the 4 suggested grants as well as the partial funding of 1 grant. Tuthill Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- DO Subcommittee report:
  - Soil Loss Amendment – Benton County

**2021-44** Hofmann moved to approve the Soil Loss Amendment for Benton County. Tuthill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Vacancies-
  - Mahaska – Recommendation to appoint Steve Dejong to fill current vacancy

**2021-45** Tuthill moved to approve the appointment of Steve Dejong to fill the current vacancy. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### SSCWQC Member Reports

- Bormann- 1.5 inches of rain in the 10 days, so area has been very dry. Weed control has been challenging.
- Farnham- Still very dry in the area. Spraying appears to be done.
- Hofmann- 7 inches of rain in the last 9 days, this was much needed. Just finishing spraying beans.
- Tuthill- With recent rain things are looking better.
- Miller- Currently in drought conditions, only have received about 1.5 inches of rain.
- Ruff- Some spotty rain, corn is starting to curl.

Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

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Colleen Miller, SSCWQC Chair

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Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director