

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting, August 6th, 2020, 10:00

A.M Conference Call Only

Minutes for August 6th, 2020

SSCWQC Members Called In

Colleen Miller, Sherman Lundy, Steve Hofmann, Patti Ruff, Dale Farnham

DSCWQ Staff Called In

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

Partners Called In

John Whitaker (CDI), Tim Hall (DNR), Kristi Oates (NRCS), Larry Roehl (ENG), Jamie Benning (ISU)

Other Called In

Margaret McQuown

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2020-27 Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2020-28 Lundy moved to approve the July 2nd, 2020 meeting minutes; Ruff seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- FY20 cost share program shows an increase in expenditures within the past few years
- 31 new 780 hour temporary employment positions have been approved
- 8 SWCDS have received over \$25,000 in technical assistance grant funding for FY2021

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Several active projects are wrapping up
- This fall Mines and Minerals are planning for 3 new bids
- Staff is working with partners to develop a Capstone course for senior level Ag. students

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- There are 28 projects that are under development in various phases between CREP, WQI, and SF212 funding
- Attended the Iowa Silver Jackets and Flood Recovery Task Force, and the Upper Mississippi River Basin Association meetings

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Kozak and Bussanmas continue to address any concerns with COVID-19. Staff has been working closely with NRCS in regards to working situations
- Statewide WQI guidance has been sent out to SWCDs for this spring/summer
- Kozak will be attending the CDI Annual Business meeting on Monday

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

- All planning coordinators need to submit a monthly report to CDI, IDALS field reps, and the NRCS AFOs
- CDI is in the process of contacting the commissioners in the pilot counties for the S.T.A.R program. This program is used to measure the sustainability of seed companies.

Engineers – Roehl

- Normal road and bridge constructions are continuing
- Roehl informed the committee this will be his last meeting on the committee

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hall

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Mike Sullivan is now the new supervisor of the DNR Solid Waste and Contaminated Sites Section
- DNR investigated three separate fish kills in streams in northeast Iowa
- Plans are being evaluated for a phased-in return to workplace procedure

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted the following topics in her report;

- A four part webinar series responding to increasing drought conditions in Iowa will be held from July 30th- August 20th
- On August 6th there will be a virtual field day covering increasing wetland opportunities with IDALS
- See report for other upcoming programs scheduled

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Oates

- Kristi Oates introduced herself to the committee. This is her first week working as the acting state conservationist.
- The Watershed and Flood Prevention Operation Program proposals are due August 14th
- The Regional Conservation Partnership Program, three projects were selected for funding in 2019.

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
 - Gubbels provided an update on current grants.
- Review Soil Loss Amendments – Polk County
 - Committee tabled amendment until the next meeting so they can review the proposed amendment prior

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Appointments
 - Clay – Recommendation to appoint Kris Binder to fill the unexpired term of Jerry Crew.

2020-29 Lundy moved to approve the appointment listed above; Miller seconded. Approved unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy- We are also in need of rain, things are getting dry. It appears there has been a renewed interest in conservation in the area.
- Miller- Crops look exceptional. You can see that crops in the sandier soil are having a harder
- time. Farnham- It's been very dry. Crops are looking ok despite the lack of rain.
- Ruff- Very dry in the area. Crops are still doing ok, and appears most crops have been treated.
- Hofmann- Beans have been treated and it appears it we will have yields higher than we have in a long time.

Adjournment

Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:07 a.m.

Colleen Miller, SSCWQC Vice Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director