

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, September 2nd, 2021, 10:00 A.M
Wallace Building or Conference Call

Minutes for September 2nd, 2021

SSCWQC Members in Person

Colleen Miller, Matt Bormann, Dennis Carlson, Paula Ellis

SSCWQC Member Called In

Dale Farnham, Patti Ruff, John Tuthill

DSCWQ Staff

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

Partners Present

John Whitaker (CDI), Ramona Nitz (CDI), Catherine DeLong (ISU), Jon Hubbert (NRCS), Steve Hopkins (DNR)

Other Called In

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

2021-49 Farnham moved to approve the agenda; Tuthill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2021-50 Farnham moved to approve the August 5th, 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;

- FY21 cost share allocations for IFIP have been distributed
- Distribution of FY21 Commissioner expense funds to all 100 districts
- Recruiting interns for the summer of 2022

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Bids were out for both the Patrick AML and the DeLong AML Projects
- Iowa received the 2021 National AML Reclamation Award for the DeRonde Project. This award was received at the NAAMLPL Annual Conference
- There is currently a Environmental Specialist position open within the Bureau. It will remain open until there is more information regarding re-authorization

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- 89 farmers were recognized during the IFELA ceremony on August 18th
- 2022 will mark 10 years of IFELAs. We are hoping to get a nomination from each county for this event

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Staff attended many events at the State Fair
- Sign-up for the Cover Crop demo for 2021/2022 will be announced soon
- The Nutrient Reduction Strategy Annual Report is now available on the NRS dashboard

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- A new president and vice president have been elected. Ramona Nitz from Region 1 was elected President. Jeri Thornsberry CDI Secretary was elected Vice President
- The four resolutions received this year at Annual Conference did not pass
- CDI will receive two extensions of the S.T.A.R grant through the Walton Family Foundation

Engineers – Bjerke (No Report Given)

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Jerah Sheets is now the new supervisor for the DNR Water Quality Improvement Section
- DNR is offering a new grant program to install creek signs on county roads
- DNR coordinators are now assisting Public Water Supplies develop new SWP plans

Iowa State Extension – Delong

Delong highlighted the following topics in her report;

- There will be a field day held on Sept. 7th highlighting Annual Forages
- Registration for Iowa Watershed Academy will be opening soon

Leopold Center – Farnham

No Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Hubbert

Hubbert highlighted the following items in his report;

- State Technical Committee will be meeting on September 16th and will be held virtually
- There were changes in the FY2021 budget due to late July allocations of CRP funds
- COVID guidelines are still being followed per the White House's guidance

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates – Gubbels
 - Gubbels shared that all contracts from FY22 have been signed and finalized

Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee report:
 - 5 year plan review: Bremer, Butler, Dickenson, Johnson, Page, Woodbury

2021-51 Ellis moved to approve the plans listed above. Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Planning Subcommittee report:
 - Budget Review; the committee discussed and reviewed the proposed budget and the suggested changes made by the subcommittee

2021-52 Ellis moved to approve the budget as presented. Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

2021-53 Farnham moved to amend the agenda and add the appointment recommendation of Rebecca Higgins, Tuthill seconded. Motion carried unanimously

- Vacancies
 - Cerro Gordo – Recommendation to appoint Rebecca Higgins to fill the unexpired term of Dennis Carney

2021-53 Farnham moved to approve the appointment of Rebecca Higgins. Bormann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Bormann- Received about 5 inches of rain, and we are starting to seed corn
- Carlson- In the area we got 3 inches of rain along with high winds, resulting in some crop damage. Some cover crops are now being seeded and we are seeing some early leaf drop due to the dryness
- Farnham- The area has only gotten about 1.5 inches of rain, not nearly enough. People have started seeding corn
- Tuthill- There has been some spotty rain along with wind damage in Dubuque
- Miller- Received about 3 inches of rain helping things green up. Have seen some cover crops being flown on
- Ruff- The area has gotten substantial rain, resulting in the Turkey River flooding
- Ellis- Have received a lot of rain, and the corn is starting to fill out

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

Colleen Miller, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director