

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, September 3rd, 2020, 10:00 A.M
Conference Call Only

Minutes for September 3rd 2020

SSCWOC Members Called In

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

DSCWQ Staff Called In

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

Partners Called In

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

Other Called In

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

2020-30 Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2020-31 Lundy moved to approve the August 6th, 2020 meeting minutes; Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services – Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Field work and office support continues following state and federal health and safety recommendations
- Distribution of FY21 commissioner expense funds have been completed. Supplemental funding will be assessed later in the fiscal year.
- IDALS has authorized 31 SWCSs to hire PT 780 employees. 18 of these will be employees continuing from Fy2020.

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Closed out the Behrle, Larkin, and Vander Beek projects.
- The Brian Wilson AML site was received a bid 1k lower than anticipated.
- Sitzmann included the approved Iowa Annual Evaluation Report for AML

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The WRCC will meet on September 17th, and the WPAC will meet on October 13th to develop annual recommendations for the Legislature.
- Planning meetings for the 2021 water conference have begun. It will be held on April 6th and 7th and will be held in Dubuque. The manner in which the meeting will be held will be decided on prior to January 1st.

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- The August employee of the month is Conservation Assistant, Brianne Wild. Brianne is located in the Allamakee field office.
- Kozak and Bussanmas have been spending time on COVID-19 responses and questions.
- Kozak has been participating in many calls with partners following the Derecho storm.
- Staff has been developing potential projects for the upcoming RCPP RFP.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

- CDI has purchased four additional Zoom licenses for districts monthly meetings.
- There is now an open planner position in NW Iowa.

Engineers –

No Report Given

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Dale Garner, Conservation & Recreation Division Admin is retiring on September 30th.
- Neil Shaffer, Coordinator of the 319 Silver Creek Watershed Project received the Harold and Kay Scholl Excellence in Conservation award.
- Hopkins also gave the committee updated information on state park closings.

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted the following topics in her report;

- Benning shared available resources for Derecho relief.
- Benning reviewed upcoming webinar series as well as Virtual Field days that will be held via Zoom

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Cagle

- John Hubbert is on his way back to Iowa.
- NRCS has been trying to address issues with Derecho and the drought.
- 135 damage survey reports due to the 2019 flood. Over 16 million dollars were allocated to make the needed repairs.

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
 - Gubbels provided an update on current grants.

2020-32 McQuown made a motion to approve the no cost budget changes to the 19PITT R&D Grant. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously

2020-33 Lundy made a motion to approve the no cost extension for the 19NREM R&D Grant. Farnham seconded. Motion carried

- Review Soil Loss Amendments – Polk County

2020-34 Lundy moved to approve the proposed soil loss amendment; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

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

2020-35 Lundy moved to approve the appointment listed above; McQuown seconded. Approved unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy- No storm damage issues, but we are facing concern with the dry weather.
- Miller- Due to the drought some of the soil is looking very sandy. There is no storm damage to report.
- Farnham- The area has been dry, you can start to see it in the beans and trees. There is a lot of storm damage to crops and bins.
- Ruff- Very dry, the beans are starting suffer from the conditions. No issues with storm damage.
- Hofmann- Dry weather, the corn is still looking good but we are losing bean potential. .
- Ellis- Dry here as well. In a couple of weeks we should start to see combining.
- McQuown- No storm damage in the area. We are starting to see some very dry weather.
- Carlson- It has been very dry here as well, we are started to see cracks in the soil. Christmas tree season planning is underway and planning for COVID precautions.
- Pope-Dry here as well, with just a little spotty rain. Seed corn has started.

Pope adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.