

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, January 6th 2022, 10:00 A.M
Zoom Meeting

Minutes for January 6th, 2022

SSCWQC Members Called In/Present

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

DSCWQ Staff

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

Partners Present

John Whitaker (CDI), Catherine Delong (ISU), Jon Hubbert (NRCS), Kyle Ament (DNR), Jerah Sheets (DNR)

Other Called In/Present

Ramona Nitz (CDI), Joe Hayes (CDI), Jerri Thornsberry (CDI), Josh Balk (DNR), Arron Geherts (LEG)

Miller called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

2021-01 Carlson moved to approve the agenda; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2021-02 Farnham moved to approve the December 2nd, 2021, meeting minutes; Bormann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Introduction – Jerah Sheets, WQ Improvement Section Supervisor

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services –Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Overall the IFIP program has had 100% program utilization over the last 3 years
- There are 11 SWCDs that have been approved for sponsored internships with several more pending
- Currently there are 5 open positions and there have been 2 positions recently filled

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topic in his report;

- MMB has recently completed two AML projects
- The Dubuque lead mine sink hole subsidence has been completed
- The MMB will be working with OSMRE and the NAAMLMP in regards to the timing and rules for the additional funding

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The next WRCC meeting will be March 10th
- Staff will be presenting at the Land Improvement Contractors Association meeting on January 10th
- Decisions on the Annual Iowa Water Conference next week

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- The December employee of the month is Ken Klein
- Guidance has been updated to reflect CDC updates
- It was announced that \$25 Million for IDALS will be given to support WQ practices though ARP funding

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- All states involved in the S.T.A.R program participated in a recent virtual meeting in regards to grazing
- Next week we will be attending the NACD meeting in Columbus, OH

Engineers – Bjerke

No report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Ament

Ament highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Bill Cappuccio retired on December 30th after 43 years with Iowa DNR
- Currently hiring Northeast Iowa Basin Coordinator
- There will be 3 new watershed projects starting soon

Iowa State Extension – DeLong

DeLong highlighted the following topics in her report;

- ISU Extension will again offer the Crop Advantage Series to producers in January 2022
- Iowa Learning Farms weekly webinar series will continue to occur every Wednesday
- January 13th there will be a virtual event on Road Detention Structures in partnership with WMA

Leopold Center – Farnham

No Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Hubbert

Hubbert highlighted the following items in his report;

- We have received most of the 2020 LiDAR data, and are hoping to have all of it soon
- The Notice of Funding Opportunity for the CIG and IPC grants FY22 are anticipated to be released in mid to late January

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates – Gubbels
 - Gubbels shared a brief update on current grants and mentioned the upcoming subcommittee meeting to review FY23 grant application
- SSCWQC Meeting frequency and structure
 - It was suggested the committee have more meetings with presentations as well as offsite meetings

Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee report:
 - 5 year plan review: Warren
 - After review and discussion, the subcommittee decided to postpone approval of the Warren plan until a page which was determined to be missing is added.
- SWM Subcommittee report:
 - REAP watershed application for West Pottawattamie SWCD
 - Upon review the subcommittee concluded to decline approval. It was determined that the application needs to be more specific prior to approval.
 - CDI Resolution Proposal
 - With the current verbiage the subcommittee decided to not pass the proposed resolution.

SWCD Vacancies/Appointments

- Vacancies
 - Johnson – Recommendation to appoint Michael T Donovan to fill the unexpired term of Bonnie Riggan
 - Johnson- Recommendation to appoint Wayne Petersen to fill the unexpired term of Alex Schmidt
 - Dubuque- Recommendation to appoint John Smith to fill the unexpired term of Melvin Wilgenbusch
 - Henry- Recommendation to appoint Charles D Allen to fill the unexpired term of Alan Miller

2022-03 Hoffman moved to approve the appointments listed above. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Visitors/Guests

- Aaron Geherts with LSA joined the meeting and had no additional comments

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Bormann- It's been cold, dry, and brown. Looking forward to more in-person meetings
- Farnham- Didn't get a lot of snow in the area
- Tuthill- Most things are on hold right now due to the snow and extreme cold
- Carlson- Noticing more cover crops being seeded by high boys. Franklin county now has a bounty on beavers
- Ellis- Plans to attend the Iowa State Crop Advantage meeting
- Miller- There was a leak in a water line resulting in a chunk of frost being torn out

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