

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, October 7th, 2021, 10:00 A.M
GoTo Meeting

Minutes for October 7th, 2021

SSCWQC Members Called In

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

DSCWQ Staff

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

Partners Present

John Whitaker (CDI), Catherine Delong (ISU), Jon Hubbert (NRCS), Steve Hopkins (DNR), Lee Bjerke (ENG)

Other Called In

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

2021-55 Tuthill moved to approve the agenda; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2021-56 Tuthill moved to approve the September 2nd, 2021, meeting minutes; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services –Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The IFIP program is going strong with 35 districts receiving a total of \$2,970,751.30
- 12 lakes were designated POLs for the SFY22
- 37 SWCDs have been approved for 780 hr contract positions

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The Brian Wilson AML project has been approved for an extension through spring 2022
- Re-authorization for the AML program has yet to be approved by congress
- KCCI Aired a news piece on the AML program on September 29th

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- WRCC met on the afternoon of Thursday, September 23rd, next meeting will be in early December
- We will be meeting with the Army Corp of Engineers in the field in October to evaluate recent projects and discuss the reissuance of Regional General Permit 39

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- The October EOM was awarded to Sarah Kelchen from the Delaware Field Office
- Kozak participated in the interview process for the new ISU Ag and Bioengineering Department Chairperson
- RCPP funding proposal was accepted by NRCS, \$8 Million awarded
- Phase 1 of Field Blitz Project is almost complete, Phase 2 has been signed and planned 100 practices installed in 2022

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Offers have been made for both open positions, currently waiting on IT security clearance from NRCS
- CDI met virtually with the McKnight Foundation Midwest Climate and Energy program

Engineers – Bjerke (Verbal report only)

- The county is looking at the American Rescue plan to install structures to slow down water

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- DNR is now offering a new On-Stream Impoundment Restoration Fund Grant Program
- EPA approved DNR's FFY21 section 319 grant application
- University of Iowa researchers reported high nitrate levels at the upper Iowa River in error

Iowa State Extension – Delong

Delong highlighted the following topics in her report;

- Lisa Schulte Moore has been named a 2021 MacArthur Fellow (aka the "Genius Grant")
- There will be an ILF Webinar hosted by Jake Hansen on October 13th

Leopold Center – Farnham

No Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Hubbert

Hubbert highlighted the following items in his report;

- Four new RCPP Projects were announced (3 new, 1 renewal)
- EWP recovery has completed 52 of the 53 agreements
- FY22 initial budget allocation has been provided

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates – Gubbels
 - Gubbels shared that the next quarterly reports are due at the end of October and reports will be shared after

Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee report:
 - 5 year plan review: Boone, Kossuth, Poweshiek

2021-57 Ellis moved to approve the plans listed above. Farnham 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

Visitors/Guests

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

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Bormann- Seeing some Cover Crops starting to grow
- Hoffman- Could use some more rain in the area. Harvest is now underway
- Farnham- 80-90% of beans are harvested with very high yields
- Tuthill- There has been some spotty rain. Bean yields are up however, corn yields are down
- Miller- Harvest is underway, beans are doing very well. Starting to see cover crops sprouting also
- Ruff- It has been misty/rainy recently. Starting to see cover crops popping up
- Ellis- Harvest is coming along well

Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.