

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, November 4<sup>th</sup> 2021, 10:00 A.M**  
**Conference Call**

**Minutes for November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

SSCWQC Members Called In

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

DSCWQ Staff

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

Partners Present

John Whitaker (CDI), Catherine Delong (ISU), Scott Cagle (NRCS), Steve Hopkins (DNR)

Other Called In

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

**2021-58** Tuthill moved to approve the agenda; Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2021-59** Tuthill moved to approve the October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, meeting minutes; Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services –Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Myers has been travelling to various SWCDs meeting new staff
- Staff working on recruiting for the District Intern Program, Summer 2022
- 37 SWCDs have been approved for 780 hour tech positions this year

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Iowa has received the 2021 National AML Reclamation Award for the DeRonde AML project
- Sitzmann is participating in a task force to increase wetland adoption with WQI
- Starkey created a new GIS layer

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- There are 14 wells that are registered with the DNR that still need to be addressed
- In the process of hiring an additional Environmental Engineer Senior to assist with wetland and edge-of-field practice design and construction observation

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- SSCWQC recognition awards were presented to 2/3 award winners
- Staff had a meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding regional permits for wetlands
- Secretary Naig and Kozak attended an AML site tour
- Turkey River Headwaters/Chihak Creek Project won the CDI Watershed of the Year Award

Presentation

- Adam Schnieders – *POSTPONED*

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The WPAC will finalize its recommendations by December 1<sup>st</sup>
- Two new DNR staff started on October 11<sup>th</sup>

Engineers – Bjerke

- No report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Governor Reynolds and Director Lyons toured the newly renovated Lake Geode
- The Governor and DNR Director released 174k bluegill and 52 sunfish into Lake Geode

#### Iowa State Extension – Delong

Delong highlighted the following topics in her report;

- A cover crop field day will be held on Nov 11<sup>th</sup> at the Borlaug Learning Center near Nashua
- There will be a cover crop boot camp for row crop and livestock farmers in Ankeny on Nov 30<sup>th</sup>

#### Leopold Center – Farnham

No Report

#### Natural Resources Conservation Service – Cagle

Cagle highlighted the following items in his report;

- Farmers are being encouraged to take part in No-Till November again this year
- EWP recovery has completed 52 of the 53 agreements
- A RCPP grant was awarded to Allamakee SWCD for the Innovative Conservation Agriculture Project

#### 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: Jasper, Polk, Story

**2021-60** Ellis moved to approve the plans listed above. Bormann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### SWCD Vacancies/Appointments

- Vacancies
  - Jasper – Recommendation to appoint David Van Waus to fill the unexpired term of Leo Miller

**2021-62** Farnham moved to approve the appointment of David Van Waus. Tuthill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

#### Visitors/Guests

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

#### SSCWQC Member Reports

- Bormann- Most crops are out and corn yields are good
- Hoffman- Lots of rain slowing down harvest. Cover Crops are looking good so far
- Farnham- Harvest is wrapping up and fall work is beginning
- Tuthill- Received a lot of rain, unfortunately poor corn stalk quality
- Ruff- There has been a lot of field work. Beans have been hit and miss
- Ellis- Harvest is still going on but should be done soon. Corn yields have been bad

Hoffman adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

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Steve Hoffman, SSCWQC Vice Chair

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Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director