

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, February 3rd, 2022, 10:00 A.M
Zoom Meeting

Minutes for February 3rd, 2022

SSCWQC Members Called In/Present

Colleen Miller, Matt Bormann, Paula Ellis, Dale Farnham, John Tuthill, Dennis Carlson, Steve Hoffman

DSCWQ Staff

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

Partners Present

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

Other Called In/Present

Joe Hayes (CDI)

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

2022-04 Farnham moved to approve the agenda; Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2022-05 Farnham moved to approve the January 6th, 2022, meeting minutes; Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentations-

- Rob Davis-District Buffer Initiative
- Vince Sitzmann- AML Video

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services –Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Districts have been notified of end of year cost share recalls for FY2022. Annual cost share summary reports will be ready for distribution soon
- District Buffer Initiative program promotional materials have been distributed
- Summer construction options have been provided to extend construction season

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topic in his report;

- MMB welcomes Tasha Cline as its new Environmental Specialist
- Request for proposals for new AML projects were send out in early January and are due February 11th

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The next WRCC meeting will be March 10th
- Iowa Water Conference has been postponed to September 28th & 29th. The event will still be held In Dubuque
- Water Resources will be adding two new positions, an Environmental Specialist as well as an Environmental Specialist Senior

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- The January employee of the month is Karen Grote, Conservation Assistant in Carroll county
- Staff has been attending meetings in regards to the proposed changes to Waters of the US
- RCPP Alternative Funding Arrangement proposal was accepted by NRCS
- Agreement signed with IDALS, Polk County, the City of Des Moines and DSM Water Works to launch a project to increase Cover Crop Acres in Des Moines River and Raccoon River Watersheds

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- All the Spring Regional dates and times have been set, with region 5 being a virtual option only
- Annual Conference will be held August 21st-23rd at the Gateway Conference Center in Ames. The breakout sessions topic will be “water quality and quantity”
- The Sand County Foundation secured funding to begin their Leopold Conservation Award in Iowa

Engineers – Bjerke

No report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Farmers Creek Nonpoint success story was approved by EPA
- EPA approved the Five Island Lake 9-element Watershed management plan
- DNR released the 2021 hunting and fishing license summaries

Iowa State Extension – Delong

Delong highlighted the following topics in her report;

- There will be a free in-person event on February 8th called “Windbreak School: Establishment, Management, and Renovation Workshop in Tama County
- Nominations are now open for New Voices in Water Quality Awards. Nominations close April 15th
- There is a new 9 video YouTube series that addresses winter forestry questions

Leopold Center – Farnham

No Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Hubbert

Hubbert highlighted the following items in his report;

- NRCS is developing the NOF for the CIG & IPC grants for FY22. Release is anticipated in early to mid-February
- The Farm Bill 2018 RCPP projects awarded in 2020 have been implemented
- Telework discussion for field offices currently are 2 days WFH every 2 weeks and for management 2 days every 4 weeks

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates – Gubbels
 - Gubbels shared a brief update on current grants

Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee report:
 - 5 year plan review: Shelby, Warren
 - After review and discussion, the subcommittee decided to postpone approval of the Shelby plan until a page which was determined to be missing is added.

2022-06 Ellis moved to approve the Warren 5 year plan. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- FY23 Grant application review
 - After reviewing the application and a recommendation to approve the FY23 I&D Grant Application from the District Operations Subcommittee the board agreed to approve the application as presented.

2022-07 Ellis moved to approve the FY23 I&D Grant Application. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously

SWCD Vacancies/Appointments

- Vacancies
 - Polk– Recommendation to appoint Wade Hauser to fill the unexpired term of Katy Siddall

2022-08 Hoffman moved to approve the appointment listed above. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Bormann- Happy to meet everyone in person for the first time. Excited for the new meeting schedule plan.
- Farnham- Looking forward to more off site meetings.
- Tuthill- Seeing the price of corn and beans fluctuate.
- Carlson- If you plan on planting trees do so early this spring. Will be attending Iowa Specialty producers next week.
- Ellis- Attended common grounds group and was able to highlight conservation.
- Miller- Quiet winter so far. We have been hauling grain into town when possible.
- Hoffman- Working on taxes and with calves

Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.