

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, March 3rd, 2022, 10:00 A.M
City Hall Ames/Conference Call

Minutes for March 3rd, 2022

SSCWQC Members Called In/Present

Steve Hoffman, Matt Bormann, Dale Farnham, John Tuthill, Dennis Carlson, Patti Ruff

DSCWQ Staff

Susan Kozak, Will Myers, Jake Hansen, Vince Sitzmann, Nicky McEuen, Cassie Druhl

Partners Present

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

Other Called In/Present

Joe Hayes (CDI), Madison Conley (CDI), Jon Hindricks (CDI), Jennifer Welch (Polk SWCD)

Hofmann called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

2022-09 Carlson moved to approve the agenda, with the amendment to add the appointment of a Buena Vista Commissioner; Bormann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2022-10 Carlson moved to approve the February 3rd, 2022, meeting minutes; Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services –Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- NACD has announced funding thought the TA2022 RDP will be available again this year
- Currently working to fill the open Program Planner III position
- Lori Lewis, Field Services admin will be retiring March 31st

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topic in his report;

- We will be working with NAAML P & OSMRE regarding the timing and rules for the additional \$6M of funding
- Sitzmann and Kozak attended the NAAML P business meeting in Gulf Shores, AL. There was a lot of networking and discussion opportunities

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The next WRCC meeting will be March 10th
- Bureau staff will begin to attend two training and outreach tracks in March
- 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 February employee of the month is Hope Faris, Conservation Assistant in Appanoose County
- Kozak, DNR, and ISU, gave a briefing on Nutrient Reduction Strategy activities to the Senate Natural Resources Committee
- Kozak attended part of the Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference hosted by DNR
- DNR gave a presentation about E.Coli at Iowa beaches to the IDALS leadership team

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Spring Regionals have begun, so far we are seeing low attendance
- Envirothon will be starting the 3rd week of March. Regional competitions will be held virtually and State meetings will be in person
- CDI will be considering the application to the newly announced Partnerships for Climate-smart Commodities grant program

Engineers – Bjerke

No report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- DNR welcomes Miranda Haes, as the new Northeast Iowa Basin Coordinator
- Julie Kelso was hired as the team lead of the SRF Water Resource Restoration Sponsored Projects Program
- DNR released the draft of the 2022 Impaired Waters list

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted the following topics in her report;

- The Northwest Iowa Ag. Experiment Association meeting will be held March 16th at the Borlaug Learning Center
- This spring a Master Woodland Steward Program will be offered beginning April 5th

Leopold Center – Farnham

No Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Cagle

Cagle highlighted the following items in his report;

- The anticipated release of the NFO is early to mid-March. The NFO for the IPC has been advertised and the deadline is tentatively April 6th
- RCPP Classic and Alternative funding arrangements have been announced, applications are due on April 13th
- NRCS is still operating on a FY 2022 resolution that runs through March 11th pending a full year budget

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates – Gubbels
 - McEuen shared a brief update on current grants
- Summer Tour Discussion
 - Kozak informed the committee that we are tentatively looking at June 6th-7th for this year's summer tour that will be held in North Central Iowa. Staff will schedule a small meeting to discuss tour stop possibilities

Subcommittee Reports

- DO Subcommittee report:
 - The DO Subcommittee meeting had to be postponed due to a lack of quorum
- SWM Subcommittee report:
 - Sitzmann and Hansen reviewed the changes made to the new West Pottawattamie REAP application with the committee

2022-11 Farnham moved to approve the West Pottawattamie REAP Application. Bormann seconded. Motion carried unanimously

SWCD Vacancies/Appointments

- Vacancies
 - Buena Vista – Recommendation to appoint Kristopher Ehlers to fill the unexpired term of Brian Waldstein

2022-12 Hoffman moved to approve the appointment listed above. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Bormann- Looking forward to warmer weather
- Farnham- It's been quiet. No meetings or events to report on
- Tuthill- Seeing the price of corn and beans fluctuate
- Carlson- Attended a Specialty Crop event in Ankeny
- Hoffman- Working on taxes and with calves

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

Steve Hofmann, SSCWQC Vice Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director