

Minutes for August 23rd, 2022

SSCWQC Members Called In/Present

Colleen Miller, Paula Ellis, Steve Hofmann, John Tuthill, Dennis Carlson, Dale Farnham

DSCWQ Staff

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

Partners Present

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

Miller called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

2022-27 Tuthill moved to approve the agenda; Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2022-28 Tuthill moved to approve the July 7th, 2022, meeting minutes; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services –Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- IDALS has approved 40 SWCD's for 780 hour contract positions
- The FARMS program is anticipated to be online by the end of the calendar year

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topic in his report;

- M&M has had 2 bid openings so far this year
- Abigayle Sweet has been hired as the new Minerals Inspector, her first day will be September 2nd
- The bureau will be applying for the new FIL funds, and anticipates to receive \$6M in additional funds to support the Iowa AML Program

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- 40 families were recognized at this years IFELA ceremony at the Iowa State Fair
- Nominations are accepted anytime in the year for IFELA

Director's Report – Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following topics in her report;

- CA, Shelly Dunnick located in Marshall County SWCD received the July Employee of the Month
- Kozak attended a meeting at Rathbun Lake with the Army Corps, as well as many outreach events at the State Fair
- A workplan to expand Conservation Agronomist network has been submitted with an anticipated state day of early 2023

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- One of the Private Lands Wildlife positions has been filled with a tentative offer out on the other
- There are currently three of the four WET positions now open

Engineers – Bjerke

Bjerke gave a verbal report to the committee;

- Currently working on assessing drainage areas

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Matt Lechtenberg with IDALS has been a part of the team that is updating the non-point source management plan
- DNR and HHS released a joint press release in regards to the presence of “brain-eating amoeba” at Lake of Three Fires in Taylor county
- Dove and Iowa Teal-Only season begins September 1st

Iowa State Extension – DeLong

DeLong gave a verbal report to the committee;

- A survey found that only 10% of house holds with private wells test their water yearly
- Tri-State Women's Woodland Stewardship Field Day will be held on September 9th at Shimek State Forest

Leopold Center – Vacant
No Report

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Hubbert

Hubbert highlighted the following items in his report;

- NRCS has awarded two IPC grants and four CIG grants this year
- USDA will invest \$25M this year for the CIG On-Farm Conservation Innovation Trials program
- Iowa received three new RCPP awards for 2022

Business

- SSCWQC Research & Demonstration Grant Updates- McEuen (Discussion & possible action)
 - McEuen gave a brief update on current grants

Subcommittee Reports

2022-29 Tuthill moved to amend the agenda to reflect additional District 5-year plans reviewed at the District Operations Subcommittees meeting. Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- DO Subcommittee report:
 - The DO Subcommittee meeting reviewed the below 5-year plan applications. The subcommittee recommended all plans for approval
 - - Calhoun
 - Buena Vista
 - Sioux
 - Webster

2022-30 Ellis moved to approve the above listed 5-year plans. Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Planning Subcommittee Report:
 - Review Budget
 - After reviewing the budget, the committee determined that the request amounts on each listed program will remain the same. The one change made was the removal of the “Urban Conservation” program from the budget sheet.

2022-31 Miller moved to approve the removal of the “Urban Conservation” program from the budget sheet. Hofmann Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Tuthill- Crops are looking great in the area. A lot of arial application happening. Luckily the area is receiving a decent amount of rain
- Carlson- Franklin Counties fruit trees are looking amazing, we are also seeing a lot of arial applications
- Hofmann- We had a wet spring, and the beans took off but with the recent drought has been taking a toll on them
- Ellis- It has been very dry since July, in much need of rain. Just finished up another year at the Iowa State Fair
- Miller- Arranged to have cover crops arial seeded this year. Buena Vista County is unfortunately still very dry
- Farnham- We have received very little rain, but the crops are still looking surprisingly good

Miller adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

Colleen Miller, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director