

Minutes for January 11th, 2023

SSCWQC Members Called In/Present

Colleen Miller, Steve Hofmann, Paula Ellis, Dennis Carlson, Matt Bormann

DSCWQ Staff

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

Partners Present

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

Other

Grant Menke (Deputy Secretary)

Miller called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

2023-01 Ellis moved to approve the agenda; Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2023-02 Hofmann moved to approve the December 8th, 2023, meeting minutes; Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services –Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- IFIP and REAP recalled funds will be redistributed to interested districts in early 2023
- 22 intern applicants have been approved for 2023
- Perrin Taylor has been hired as the Southwest Field Services Representative

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics his the report;

- There are currently 7 active projects under design with staff working to move the to the final stage
- Interviews have been completed for the new Project Coordinator position, hiring decision will be made soon

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Wetland Initiatives currently has 2 projects under construction and 64 sites in various stages of preliminary work
- There are 13 remaining Ag. Drainage Wells registered with DNR with plans being made on how to close the remaining wells
- Staff have been attending several meetings such as, Iowa Partners Meeting, LICA Annual Conference, and the Iowa Silver Jackets meeting

Director's Report – Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following topics in her report;

- The December employee of the month was awarded to Mike Franklin for his hard work on the FARMS program
- Secretary Naig, Kozak, and Matt Lechtenberg attended a Gulf Hypoxia Task Force Meeting in Washington
- The Cover Crop Insurance discount program is underway and currently schedule to close on January 13th

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Report on file; unable to attend due to the CDI board meeting

Engineers – Bjerke

No Report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources –Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The DNR Lake and Restoration Program 2022 report and 2023 plan is available
- Hopkins reviewed discussion that was had at the Bobcat Recovery Meeting
- DNR will start stocking Trout in 5 locations across Iowa on January 14th

Iowa State Extension – Delong

DeLong highlighted the following items in her report;

- ISU will be offering a new conference, Farm Transitions Conference. This is meant to help transition a farm to the next generation

- This winter, Agronomy in the Field Program will be offer again, with the intention to teach women more about agronomy
- ISU Extension will travel to 14 locations around Iowa to provide updated management options and recommendations on crop production issues facing Iowa growers

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Cagle

Cagle highlighted the following items in his report;

- Jon Hubbert is currently serving as the acting regional Conservationist for the Northeast Region
- USDA announced its investment of \$325 million in 71 projects for Climate-Smart Commodities
- The annual Iowa NRCS, At A Glance report is now available

Business

- SSCWQC Research & Demonstration Grant Updates- McEuen (Discussion & possible action)
 - McEuen gave a brief update on current grants
- Discuss the CDI resolution review request – The committee looked over the resolutions and will make decisions after they have been reviewed by the Planning and Programs Subcommittee

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments (Discussion & possible action)

- Dickinson- Recommendation to appoint Ben Ashland to fill the unexpired term of David Kohlhaase
- Humboldt- Recommendation to appoint Reed Burres to fill a current vacant position
- Johnson- Recommendation to appoint Corey Jonson to fill the unexpected term of Jody Bailey
- Ringgold- Recommendation to appoint George Hunt to fill the unexpired term of Mel Burton

2023-03 Ellis moved to approve the recommended appointments listed above; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Hofmann- Not a lot going on right now. Cows are starting to go to market
- Bormann- Working with Iowa Learning Farms and will be hosting some field days this year
- Miller- There is still a lot of snow and ice in the area. Interested in attending the Specialty Crop Meeting in Feb
- Ellis- Working on taxes and submitting the Cover Crop incentive application. Planning to attend the Iowa Soybean meeting at the end of the month as well as a cover crop meeting

Miller adjourned the meeting at 10:15 a.m.

Colleen Miller, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director