

Minutes for December 7th, 2023

SSCWQC Members Called In/Present

Steve Hofmann, Dennis Carlson, Paula Ellis, Colleen Miller, Matt Bormann, Mike McGhee, Angela Rosol

DSCWQ Staff

Jake Hansen, Vince Sitzmann, Kate Bussanmas, Will Myers, Nicky McEuen

Partners Present

Dien Judge (CDI), Jeri Thornsberry (CDI), Catherine Delong (ISU), Carlee Sabus (CDI), Steve Hopkins (DNR), Jon Hubbert (NRCS), Patrick Chase (NRCS)

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

2023-27 Rosol moved to approve the agenda with the amendment to add the commissioner recommendation in Butler County; Ellis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2023-28 Miller moved to approve the October 12th, 2023, meeting minutes; Rosol seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services –Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- FY2024 cost share programs have been provided to districts and supplemental funds have been distributed
- IDALs has been approved to hire on 20 summer interns in 2024
- Myers pointed out the multiple updates in the field office staffing

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

Kozak highlighted the following topics on Sitzmann's behalf;

- Hosting a grazing field day at the Partick AML site in Wapello County on August 30th
- OSMRE grant funds were awarded to the AML program in the amount of \$2.89M
- The Patrick AML site will be receiving the best AML Reclamation Project award at the September NAAMLPL meeting

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- 39 IFELA award winners were recognized at the Iowa State Fair this year
- The 2023 Iowa Waster Conference will be held on Sept. 19th-20th at Prairie Meadows Convention Center
- There are 13 remaining wells registered with DNR; it is anticipated that closure or construction of all remaining wells to be complete in 2024

Director's Report – Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following topics in her report;

- The June Employee of the Month was awarded to Clark Porter, ES for Middle Cedar Watershed
- July's Employee of the Month was awarded to Colleen Trees, CA in Wright County
- Changes might be coming from the Governor's Office pertaining to the SSCWQC's duties; updates will be shared as they arise

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Dien Judge will be taking over as the new Executive Director after September 1st
- There has been an offer made for one of the open Private Wetland Wildlife positions
- NACD has announced their Partners in Climate Smart Ag grant program; it will be determined if Iowa SWCD's or CDI will be a good fit

Engineers – Bjerke

No Report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources –Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- DNR has tentatively awarded almost \$2Million in requests for new and existing watershed projects

- Two new Watershed Management Authorities (WMA) were formed this year
- Research at State Park beaches is being done in hopes to develop a beach-shed program in the future to reduce the growth of E.coli

Iowa State Extension – DeLong

DeLong highlighted the following items in her report;

- Iowa Beef Center is hosting a fall fencing and grazing clinic in eastern Iowa on Sept 14th
- Iowa learning Farms continues to host a weekly webinar series every Wednesday at noon
- The Iowa State Extension office is currently looking to hire a Climatologist

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Dominy

Dominy highlighted the following items in his report;

- Climate Smart Ag. is running several programs, some being centered in Iowa. This could cause some confusion with other cover crop programs
- Through IRA & Farm Bill funding there will be many conservation opportunities
- We are current working on filling several vacant positions

Business (Discussion & possible action)

- SIDCA Annual Report – Jake Hansen
- CDI Resolution Request
 - The CDI resolutions were provided to the committee and will be reviewed at the subcommittee level

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments (Discussion & possible action)

- Black Hawk – Recommendation to appoint Sherman Lundy to fill the unexpired term of Jennifer Trent
- Fayette – Recommendation to appoint Joe Bahe to fill the unexpired term of Don Bahe
- Hardin - Recommendation to appoint Cris Burks to fill the unexpired term of Kent Kelsey
- Hardin- Recommendation to appoint Josh Jeske to fill the unexpired term of Rex Lawler
- Madison- Recommendation to appoint Don Eyerly Jr. to fill the unexpired term of Lisa Coverdale

2023-26 Ellis moved to approve the new commissioner appointments listed above. Tuthill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Ellis- It has been busy with harvest, we just finished with beans on Tuesday
- Tuthill – Bean harvest is finishing up, but with recent rain things have been slowing down the harvest
- Carlson- It has been very dusty due to the current harvest paired with the dry conditions. Fertilizer has been seen going on fields as well
- Bormann- The area has been seeing a lot of land exchange
- McGhee – Cover crops have been seen being planted in the area. Due to the recent rain the bean harvest has been slowed down
- Hofmann – The budget meeting with Secretary Naig went well. Rain is very needed in the area however, even with lack of moisture the corn and bean yields have been good

Future Meetings

December 7, 2023	Tentative - 10:00 AM – Wallace Building w/virtual option
February 8, 2024	Partnership Day – meet before or after event?
June 10-11, 2024	Tentative - Summer Tour and Joint Meeting

Hofmann adjourned the meeting at 9:23 a.m.

Steve Hofmann, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director