

Minutes for August 29th, 2023

SSCWQC Members Called In/Present

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

DSCWQ Staff

Susan Kozak, Jake Hansen, Will Myers, Kate Bussanmas, Nicky McEuen

Partners Present

John Whittaker (CDI), Catherine Delong (ISU), Niel Dominy (NRCS), Steve Hopkins (DNR)

Hofmann called the meeting to order at 2:12 p.m.

2023-20 Carlson moved to approve the agenda; Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2023-21 Miller moved to approve the June 12th, 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;

- The new FARMS system has went live offering several enhancements
- 23 SWCD interns were approved for funding in the summer of 2023
- 40 SWCD's have been approved for 780 hour contract technician positions this year

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 NAAML P 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

Subcommittee Reports

- District Operations -
 - 5 year plan review;

▪ Adams	▪ Jefferson
▪ Clarke	▪ Lucas
▪ Davis	▪ Mills
▪ Decatur	▪ Montgomery
▪ Freemont	▪ Washington

2023-22 Ellis moved to approve the 5 year plans listed above. Tuthill seconded. Motioned carried unanimously.

- Planning & Programs-
 - Budget review and approval
 - After review and discussion, the committee agreed with the subcommittees suggestions for the budget to present to the Secretary

2023-23 Miller moved to approve the FY25 Budget presented by the subcommittee. Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Hofmann- Very dry here, the hay crop and grazing fields took a huge hit due to this. Beans however, are looking very good and with a little rain things are perking up.
- Tuthill- Crops are very diverse due to lack of rain in some areas.
- Carlson- Crops are looking good in the area. Worked at the Christmas tree stand at the State Fair. Looking like people are starting to gear up for harvest in a few weeks.
- Ellis- Some wind damage toward the end of June. With the rain, crops are looking good. Seeing many new cover crop programs popping up.
- Miller- Haven't seen any cover crops go on yet. Fortunate enough to not struggle with lack of rain in my area.
- Bormann- Breakout session at CDI conference provided some great information and discussion.
- McGhee- Des Moines metro area is expanding rapidly. We are seeing fields being sold in the area
- Rosol- Crops are spotty as of right now. Currently doing some Nitrate testing.

Miller adjourned the meeting at 3:17 p.m.

Steve Hofmann, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director