

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting, Thursday, October 3rd 2019, 10:00 A.M

Conference Call

Phone: 866-685-1580 Code: 5152815851

Minutes for October 3rd, 2019

SSCWQC Members Called In

Paula Ellis, Kevin Pope, Steve Hofmann, Colleen Miller, Dennis Carlson, Sherman Lundy, Patti Ruff, Dale Farnham

DSCWQ Staff Present

Jake Hansen, Vince Sitzmann, Lori Lewis

Partners Present

Steve Hopkins (DNR),

Partners called in

Jamie Benning (ISU), Jon Hubbert (NRCS)

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

2019-30 Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2019-31 Hofmann moved to approve the July 11th, 2019 meeting minutes; Pope seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services - Myers

- Meyers was unable to attend. See attached report on file for additional details.

Mines and Minerals - Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following items in his report;

- Working on filling a vacant Environmental Specialist position, who will assist staff as well as GIS support to the bureau.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- The bureau has two new Environmental Specialists; the first being Tj Lynn for the North Raccoon watershed, and Sean McCoy to serve on the Black hawk lake and Brushy Creek watershed projects.
- Hansen will be attending a meeting tomorrow to discuss some planning assistance for flood recovery efforts in the Missouri river region. Hansen has also been involved in other flood recover meetings discussing addition funding assistance.

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak was unable to attend the meeting.

Hansen briefly reviewed WQI's current watershed programs as well as its now active cover crop program. See report on file for additional details.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker was unable to attend, see report on file.

Engineers – Roehl

Roehl was unable to attend, see report on file.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Deputy Director Bruce Trautman retired on September 27th, after 7 years with DNR.
- Both new Environmental Specialists hired by DSCWQ Water Resources were previously 319 funded Watershed Coordinators with that loss DNR is trying to make decisions on how to re-fill those positions.
- Rathbun is now moving forward with completing and update to their watershed management plan and continue the water quality work within the Rathbun Lake Watershed.
- DNR executed a new contract with Iowa DOT to install 239 new creek signs.

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted items in her report;

- ISU Extension has hired a new Forestry Specialist, Billy Beck.
- Benning highlighted an article included in her report as well as two webinars

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resource Conservation Service – Simon

Verbal report given at joint meeting, the following topics were discussed;

- NRCS finished FY2019 strong. EQIP ended with just over 36.5 mil obligated in Iowa, the highest year ever. There were 489 new contracts that included cover crops and a total of a 119k acres on those were new contracts.
- The Emergency watershed protection program dealing with flood plain easement has had applications coming in that started on September 3rd and will continue through October 18th. As of the last update on September 30th there were 131 applications submitted for 16,647 acres. There has been an early allocation of 36 Mil; the early estimate on this many acres is roughly 100 Mil needed to close the easement and do demolition and restoration work on those sites.
- The interim final rules are still moving forward. Several have been cleared by the department and are now back for final wording before they are released.
- The reorganization approval process has currently been approved all the way to the secretary and is currently out for congressional review. NRCS expects it back soon with a final decision.

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
 - No update

Subcommittee Reports

- None

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Vacancies
 - Plymouth- Due to resignation of Pat Winter because of health reasons.
- Appointments
 - Hamilton- Recommendation to appoint Kim Olson to fill the unexpired term of Marty Johnson
 - Clarke- Recommendation to appoint Haylee Pontier to fill the unexpired term of Mary Klein
 - Plymouth- Recommendation to appoint Robert Puetz to fill the unexpired term of Patricia Winter
 - Ringgold- Recommendation to appoint Bill Daughton to fill the unexpired term of Harold Cooper

2019-32 Lundy moved to approve the appointments listed above; Hofmann seconded. Approved unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Miller- Harvest is off to a slow start, there has been 2.5 inches of rain this week and very cold.
- Ruff- Harvest is slow, very few fields combined. 3-5 inches of rain this week, most are waiting for things to dry.
- Carlson- Forestry field day coming soon in Clear Lake. Last week noticed that the Monarchs have left and started their migration. Starting to prepare for the Christmas tree season.
- Hofmann- Have been working on some prevent planting tasks. Around 10 inches of rain recently in the area. Beans do not look like they are close to harvest yet.
- Pope- 5 inches of rain recently on top of the 7-10 inches we received recently so things have been wet. Some people have been able to begin harvest on their beans. Cover crops have been seeded on some of the early harvest fields.
- Lundy- The area is as wet just as everyone else has stated. On Sunday at Morgan's Quarry they are holding a "Sunday at the Quarry" program if anyone is in the area and would like to stop by. New farm operators are finding there is a reluctance to use cover crops.
- Farnham- Farmers in the area have been seeding cover crops.
- Ellis- The area has received some rain but it has not been as excessive as other parts of the state. Corn fields are being harvested. Due to planting of cover crops and no-till practices we have been able to get into the fields sooner than our neighboring farms. Met with Secretary Mike Naig and presented the budget.

Adjournment

Ellis adjourned the meeting at 10:42 a.m.