

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Monthly Meeting, Thursday, November 7th 2019, 10:00 A.M

Wallace Building Conference, Conference Room 2

Conference Call

Phone: 866-685-1580 Code: 5152815851

Minutes for November 7th, 2019

SSCWQC Members Present

Dale Farnham, Steve Hofmann, Dennis Carlson, Sherman Lundy, Patti Ruff

SSCWQC Members Called In

Paula Ellis, Colleen Miller

DSCWQ Staff Present

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

Partners Present

Jon Hubbert (NRCS), John Whitaker (CDI), Steve Konrady (DNR), Jamie Benning (ISU)

The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

2019-33 Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2019-34 Lundy moved to approve the October 3rd, 2019 meeting minutes; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services - Myers

- Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;
 - An additional \$75,000 will be allocated this year for SWCD commissioner expenses.
 - REAP Assemblies are being held again, schedules have been sent out.
 - Soil loss limit updates will begin in 2020
 - IDALS is working with NRCS & CDI on drafting a new cooperative agreement
 - This is now only one county with a shared CA (Worth).
 - IDALS is providing funding support for intern positions this year, ten SWCD's have requested positions.
 - IDALS has entered into a new agreement with NRCS that provides funding for partnership activities. The agreement is active through September 2021.
 - Standardized treasures reports will begin in November.

Mines and Minerals - Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following items in his report;

- Ryan will be sending out renewals for mining licensing and site registrations in November.
- The new Environmental Specialist position has been filled by Katie VanDooren, she was previously a M&M 780 hour employee as well as a M&M intern in the Marion Field office.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Hansen and Kozak met with Iowa Learning Farms staff to discuss ongoing outreach efforts. ILF would like to target at least one Field day in 2020 in each of the six SSCWQC farmer representative regions.
- IDALS staff will participate in CRP training with NRCS and FSA staff in Des Moines during the week of November 18th.

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Kate Bussanmas has been selected as Assistant Director for the Division. She will primarily work with WQI and special initiatives for the Division.
- Kozak attended her first agency partner pheasant hunt.
- Matt McDonald accepted the position of Environmental Specialist Senior.
- Tracy Bruun will be moving from the NE region to the SW region.
- Kozak is working with a private company regarding a gypsum soil amendment idea.
- WQI cover crop insurance demo project has entered its final year of the initial 3 year pilot. The website has been updated and sign-ups are now open through January 15th, 2020.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following items in his report;

- The WET position was been offered and accepted.
- 5 NRCS planning coordinator positions have been filled and will be starting November 18th.

Engineers – Roehl

Roehl was unable to attend, no report sent.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Konrady

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Alex Moon has been named DNR Deputy Director by Director Kayla Lyon.
- Ed Tormey has been named permanent DNR Environmental Services Division (ESD) Administrator, previously acting since late 2018
- Adam Schnieders has been named acting DNR Water Quality Bureau Chief, and Tim Hall has been named acting Land Quality Bureau Chief.
- DOT Stream Mitigation Project completed in DNR-funded Price Creek Watershed Project
- Emily Nusz, EPA Section 319 coordinator for Iowa from the EPA Region 7 office, recently completed a tour of 3 DNR section 319-funded watershed projects.

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted items in her report;

- New ISU Extension Natural Resource Stewardship website
- Upcoming events listed in report
- The November 22nd and 23rd Watershed Academy recently had a very good turnout

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Hubbert

Written report handed out at meeting, the following topics were discussed;

- Hubbert shared that NRCS is currently working on filling many recently posted positions.
- Hubbert reviewed NRCS's FY2019 infographic and statewide maps

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
 - Nothing to report. Full update to be given at December meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

- Soil, Water, Mineral Resources
 - The SWM subcommittee reviewed the Black Hawk Creek priority watershed application.

2019-35 Ellis moved to approve the Black Hawk Creek Priority Watershed application. Hofmann seconded. Approved unanimously.

- Planning Committee
 - Subcommittee reviewed CDI resolution, and decided to wait to present to the full board until December meeting along with the rest of the resolutions.
 - Subcommittee also briefly reviewed working plan and will set another meeting in the near future to discuss further.

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Vacancies
 - Howard - Vacancy due to the resignation of Glen Pietan
 - Taylor – Vacancy due to the resignation of Carolyn Brown
- Appointments
 - Hamilton-Recommendation to appoint Kim Olson to fill the unexpired term of Marty Johnson
Needs re-approval due to failure to administer the oath within 10 days of last approved appointment
 - Taylor – Recommendation to appoint Bonnie Godden to fill the unexpired term of Carolyn Brown

2019-36 Hofmann moved to approve the appointments listed above; Ruff seconded. Approved unanimously.

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 7, 2017, 8:00 A.M. Conference Call

Call In: 866-685-1580

Conference Code: 5152815851

Visitor/Guest Comments

Sherman Lundy addressed a concern as a guest for ILPA

- Ag lime testing concern for committee awareness; if ISU is unable to test at a consistent time then results will not be consistent. Lundy suggested that IDALS select a different lab source if this is an issue. Jamie Benning offered her assistance on behalf of ISU.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Ruff- 2 inches of snow recently along with cold weather. Due to weather there has been very little field work. There also has been a higher level of moisture than last year, proving to be a challenge.
- Carlson- Attended a forestry meeting. A big issue right now is burrow trees. Christmas tree season has begun!
- Hofmann- Still harvesting. 80% of beans are done and about 60% of corn. The ground is still pretty wet. Have been seeing a lot of interest in conservation work with terraces and cover crops.
- Lundy- There has been snow in the area. Seeing some mixed interest in cover crops in NE Iowa. Might need to push more no-till practices.
- Farnham- Harvest is still going, with only a few farms wrapping up. Have been seeing cover crops being planted.
- Ellis- Still harvesting, finishing up within the next 4-5 days. Working on cover crops as well. Some farmers are running low on propane.

Adjournment

Farnham adjourned the meeting at 11:24 p.m.

Paula Ellis, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director