

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, Thursday, December 5th, 2019, 10:00 A.M
Wallace Building Conference, Conference Room 2

Minutes for January 16th, 2019

SSCWQC Members Present

Paula Ellis, Kevin Pope, Steve Hofmann, Sherman Lundy, Colleen Miller, Patti Ruff

DSCWQ Staff Present

Susan Kozak, Jake Hansen, Kate Bussanmas, Nicky Gubbels

Partners Present

Kurt Simon (NRCS), Kevin McCall (NRCS), John Whitaker (CDI), Steve Hopkins (DNR), Jamie Benning (ISU)

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

2019-37 Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Pope seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2019-38 Lundy moved to approve the November 7th, 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;
 - CDI and NRCS has begun a new five year grant in cooperation with IDALS to update Soil and Water Resources Conservation Plans (5 year Plans) in each SWCD.
 - The resulting Field Rep positions vacancies for northeast and southeast areas have been posted and will close December 1st.

Mines and Minerals - Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following items in his report;

- Mike Bourland spent approximately 1 week providing technical support to the city of Dubuque investigating a sink hold believed to be related to a lead mine.
- The GIS database is about 1/5 complete
- Sitzmann attended a State Technical Committee meeting with NRCS and partners to discuss possible changes to the CSP program.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- IDALS staff will meet with our Wetland Field Specialists on December 5th to review ongoing items of interest and discuss plans for 2020
- There are currently open positions in Benton and Sioux County
- In the process of replacing one and hiring two new Environmental Specialist. Interviews will be conducted the week of December 16th to fill/refill two positions and January 6th to fill the remaining.

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Employee of the month for November was awarded to Susan Eggena
- Kozak attended an Illinois nutrient reduction strategy conference
- New RFP out for RCPP proposals, due 12/4/19
- Matt McDonald has been selected as the Environmental Specialist Senior position for WQI.
- New RFP open for new Urban projects pre-apps close December 6th. Full apps are anticipated to open on 4/1/20

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following items in his report;

- CDI currently has 3 open positions
 - Community Source Water Facilitator in Atlantic
 - WET position in Atlantic
 - WET position in Washington

Positions are anticipated to be filled after the first of the New Year.

Engineers – Roehl

Roehl was unable to attend, no report sent.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Mary Beth Stevenson, DNR Basin Coordinator regrettably took a new position at the City of Cedar Rapids
- DNR and Polk County partnered through the Easter Lake Watershed Project to complete a new grade stabilization practice to control an actively eroding gully at the entrance to Easter Lake Park.
- DNR and IDALS were credited in a Cedar Rapids Gazette article (11/27/19) for partnering on the Price Creek Watershed
- First Shotgun Deer season starts December 7-11, Second 14-22

Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted items in her report;

- Reviewed a news release regarding Multi-Purpose Oxbows added to Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy practice list.
- Iowa Learning Farms Webinar – Dec 18th at 12:00 PM
- Crop Advantage Series, 14 locations in January 2020

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Simon

Verbal report only;

- CRP – There should be an announcement soon about opening a sign-up.
- Training with FSA on upcoming changes on CRP
- EWP, Flood plain easement - 393 farms signed up, there were a little over 40k acres estimated a total of 250 million in funds requested. Currently have 36 million available for funds.
- Re-organization has been signed off on and implementation will begin after the 1st of the year.

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
 - Gubbels gave a full report on all active grants- Report on file
- Committee reviewed and discussed 2020 meeting dates

Subcommittee Reports

- Soil, Water, Mineral Resources
 - The Committee reviewed the SWM committee's recommendations and came to a final decision on the following CDI resolutions;

2019-39 A motion was made by Lundy to not support this resolution and to make no changes to the IFIP revise date. Pope seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- Resolution #5 – Require Permanent Buffer Strips to Protect Streams

2019-40 A motion was made by Lundy to not support this resolution and to not place any requirements on permanent buffer strips. Hofmann seconded the motion. Motion carried.

- Resolution #6 – One Year Cover Crop Trial for New Users

2019-41 A motion was made by Lundy to not support his resolution and to not offer a one year cover crop trial for new users. Pope seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

- Resolution #7 – Edge of Field Practice Addition

2019-42 A motion was made by Lundy to not support this resolution and require no further action. Hofmann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously

- Planning
 - The Committee reviewed the Planning Committee's recommendations and came to a final decision on the following CDI resolutions;

- Resolution #3 – Funding for Education Coordinators

2019-43 A motion was made by Ellis to not support his resolution and provide no funding for education coordinators. Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Appointments
 - Howard-Recommendation to appoint Brian Hrdlicka to fill the unexpired term of Glen Pietan

2019-44 Lundy moved to approve the appointment of Brian Hrdlicka; Hofmann seconded. Approved unanimously.

Visitor/Guest Comments

Deb Kozel-

- Announced her last session and her successor, Rodrigo Acevedo.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Ruff- Harvest is still in progress in some areas. It is still very wet. There has been some tilling and terrace projects being done.
- Hofmann- Crops are almost all done. There has been some tillage done in the area as well as some conservation practices.
- Lundy- Still wet in the fields making people unable to remove crops. 2021 sunset on REAP
- Pope- Harvest is over. A lot of cover crops when in August and they are looking very nice now.
- Ellis- Finished harvest. The very first bioreactor is being place in Lee County. Recently attended assembly and Farm bureau annual meeting.
- Miller- Harvest is mostly done. A lot of propane is being used to dry. Cover crops are going on and we are seeing more tillage.

Adjournment

Ellis adjourned the meeting at 11:49 a.m.

Paula Ellis, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director