

Minutes for March 2nd, 2023

SSCWQC Members Called In/Present

Colleen Miller, Dale Farnham, Paula Ellis, John Tuthill, Dennis Carlson, Steve Hofmann

DSCWQ Staff

Susan Kozak, Jake Hansen, Kate Bussanmas, Nicky McEuen

Partners Present

John Whitaker (CDI), Catherine Delong (ISU), Scott Cagle (NRCS), Steve Konrady (DNR), Steve Hopkins (DNR), Miranda Haes (DNR)

Miller called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

2023-07 Hofmann moved to approve the agenda with the amendment of adding director reports; Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2023-08 Farnham moved to approve the February 2nd, 2023, meeting minutes; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentations

- Colin Tadlock, IDALS Chief of Staff – Budget & Legislation Update
- Derek Namanny – SWCD Loans

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services –Myers

Myers highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Applications for POL cost-share funding are now open and will be due on April 1st
- There is currently an opening for the SE Field Rep position and recently Colleen Porsch was hired as the new Financial Specialist
- 23 districts were approved for summer interns

Mines and Minerals – Sitzmann

No report given, Unable to attend meeting

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Wetland Initiatives currently has 1 project under construction and 64 sites in various stages of preliminary work
- There are 13 remaining Ag. Drainage Wells registered with DNR with plans being made on how to close the remaining wells
- IFELA Award applications for 2023 will be open until May 1st, 2023

Director's Report – Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following topics in her report;

- The March employee of the month was awarded Laura Willie a CA located in Story County
- Staff is working to formalize the Batch and Build projects and roles staff and partners have
- 18 Urban WQI project applications have been reviewed for funding/approval awards will be announced by April

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa - Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following in his report;

- The NE IA WET position has been filled with the start date of April 10th
- The NW IA WET position is still open
- So far Spring Regionals have been going well, there has been great attendance

Engineers – Bjerke

No Report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources –Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Pre-applications for the New EPA Underserved Farmer-to-Farmer Grants are due April 28th
- The Iowa Drought Plan was completed in January of 2023
- DNR 319 watershed projects have completed about 324 BMP's in FFY2022

Iowa State Extension – DeLong

DeLong highlighted the following items in her report;

- ISU will be offering the Iowa Master Woodland Steward Program for woodland stewards. The program will be offered twice in the Spring of 2023
- Women Managing Farmland field days will be offered covering leasing, transitions and conservation

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Cagle

Cagle highlighted the following items in his report;

- Funding opportunities for CIG and IPC will be released in early March
- Notice of funding opportunities for RCPP should be released by late spring
- Farm Bill Assistance program applications are due on March 17th

Business

- SSCWQC Research & Demonstration Grant Updates- McEuen (Discussion & possible action)
 - McEuen gave a brief update on current grants
- Second vote for SSCWQC quarterly meetings

2023-09 Ellis moved to approve moving monthly SSCWQC meetings to quarterly meetings. Tuthill seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

- Planning & Programs Subcommittee:
 - CDI Resolutions Review
 - The committee discussed and reviewed the 3 proposed resolutions and determined that all three should be passed.

2023-10 Miller moved to approve the 3 CDI Resolutions presented. Hofmann seconded. Motioned carried unanimously.

- Operations Subcommittee Report:
 - Reviewed revised SSCWQC grant application.
 - After review and discussion, with a few adjustments, the committee approved of the new format of the grant application

2023-11 Ellis moved to approve the FY2024 SSCWQC grant application. Carlson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- Review 5 year plans
 - Osceola

2023-12 Ellis moved to approve the 5 year plan listed above. Carlson Seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Hofmann- Got a good amount of rain and hoping we have seen the last of the frost. Farmers are working on finalizing crop plans
- Tuthill- Planning on attending the Regional in Davenport. Portable crushing crews are getting ready to go out while everyone is getting ready for spring
- Carlson- With the amount of rain we have been getting creeks are looking full. Now is a good time to observe cover crops and assessing any damage to trees. Fruit tress will need to be pruned
- Farnham- Just shy of 2” of rain. Starting to see some farm equipment moving as spring nears
- Ellis- Attended my areas Spring Regional. Recently met with a researcher from the University of Georgia who is writing a research article on women in Ag. and cover crops
- Miller- Currently cycling between thawing and freezing. Have been really seeing conservation at work recently

Miller adjourned the meeting at 11:37 a.m.