

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup> 2019, 10:00 A.M.**  
**Wallace Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room**

**Minutes for March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

SSCWQC Members Present

Paula Ellis, Dale Farnham, Steve Hofmann, Sherman Lundy

SSCWQC Members Called In

Vance Hjelm

Partners Present

Kurt Simon (NRCS), Jaia Fischer (NRCS), Tim Hall (DNR), Larry Roehl (ICEA), John Whitaker (CDI)

DSCWQ Staff Present

Susan Kozak, Vince Sitzmann, Jake Hansen, Nicky Gubbels

Guests

Secretary Mike Naig, Deputy Secretary Julie Kenney (call in)

Division Director Discussion

Naig and Kenney discussed with committee the upcoming steps and process of interviewing and hiring a new division director. Kenney shared that ideally they would like to have a candidate chosen by the beginning of April or shortly after.

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

**2019-8** Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Dale Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2019-9** Lundy moved to approve the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes; Dale Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports

Field Services-Sitzmann (Report on file)

Sitzmann highlighted the chart included in his report explaining which positions have or will be filled soon. There are still six remaining shared CA's that will be filled as the budget allows. He then reminded the committee that they are continuing to work on a standardized treasure's report for all SWCD's, which should be completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Sitzmann also informed the committee that training video #5 was released to all SWCD's on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mines and Minerals-Kozak (Report on File)

Kozak shared that trees are starting to come down on all projects for winter clearing and that Professional Service Contracts are being signed and moved through the process. Kozak also shared that she went to Utah to attend the National Association of Abandoned Mine Land Programs business meeting, where they heavily discussed program reauthorization. The team met to develop an Iowa focused reauthorization information piece as well.

Water Resources-Hansen (Report on File)

Hansen highlighted that there have been bids opened for 4 different CREP sites to be started in the spring. Hansen also discussed his recent site visit to Dubuque with Secretary Naig and Deputy Secretary Kenney to tour a dewatered lock, pictures and more information are available for anyone interested.

Director's Report-Kozak (Report on File)

Kozak announced that the employee of the month for February was Lois Behrens, the state technician in the Carroll SWCD office. Lois is known for her incredible windbreak designs, which have won 15 state awards over the last 16 years. Kozak went on to highlight the following activities;

- Staff listened to a webcast regarding the Proposed Waters of the US regulations.
- Kozak attended an agency meeting regarding WOTUS in Kansas City.
- Staff attended Spring Regional meetings with CDI and NRCS.
- Keeping a close eye on easement proposals in the Iowa legislature.

Presentations

Farm Ownership Survey-Dr. Wendong Zhang  
SSCC17ISA-Theo Gunther

Partner Reports

Conservation Districts of Iowa- Whitaker (Report on File)

Whitaker explained that Spring Regionals have been underway and attendance has been great with two more to go. Whitaker also shared that the Iowa Enviorthon Regional competitions will be held March 12<sup>th</sup> through the 20<sup>th</sup> in five locations, and the State Enviorthon will be held April 8<sup>th</sup> at Jester Park.

Engineers – Roehl (Report on File)

Roehl introduced himself to the committee and shared that we should anticipate poor gravel road conditions during spring thaw throughout the state. He also stated that we will most likely see problems arise for road maintenance, as well as flooding.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hall (Report on File)

Hall shared that Alex Moon , DNR Land Quality Bureau Chief, has taken over duties as acting DNR Water Quality Bureau chief due to the departure of Jon Tack. He also shared that a new Iowa Stream Mitigation method (version 2) was approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in December.

Iowa State Extension –Benning (Report on File)

Benning was unable to attend the meeting. See report for details.

Leopold Center – Farnham

Dale Farnham stated that he had nothing new to share and that their next meeting will be in June.

Natural Resource Conservation Service – Simon

Simon started by thanking everyone on the state committee and everyone who attended for their dedication to the CDI spring regionals. Simon passed out maps highlighting the current LIDAR situation and gave a brief update on its status. Simon also thanked Jaia Fisher for attending the meeting with him; she went on to share that where hiring is concerned they have room to fill 73 positions, with a three phase plan to assist with that process.

Business

- SSCWQC Research & Demonstration Grant Updates- Gubbels (Report on File)
  - Gubbels provided updated information on all current grants.

**2019-10** Lundy moved to approve the soil loss amendments. Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Subcommittee Reports

- District Operations-R&D Grant application approval

**2019-11** Hofmann moved to approve the 2019 R&D Grant application. Lundy seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Warren- Recommendation to appoint Merrill Dean Heemstra to fill the unexpired term of Scott Rupp

**2019-11** Lundy moved to approve the recommendation from the Warren SWCD. Farnham seconded. Approved unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Farnham- There has been some flooding with the massive snow melt.
- Lundy- Enviorfest will be held May 14<sup>th</sup>, this event teaches 5<sup>th</sup> graders about Conservation activates in Waterloo.
- Hjelm- Its very cold and snowy in the area still. Attended region 1& 2 spring regionals, really enjoyed Doug Peterson’s presentation.
- Hofmann- Enjoyed all the information given at Spring Regionals this year. Glad to hear more people talking about cover crop seeding.
- Ellis- There have been two new committee member appointments made.

Adjournment

Ellis adjourned the meeting at 12:14 p.m.