

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2019, 9:00 A.M.**  
**Wallace Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room**

**Minutes for May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019**

SSCWQC Members Present

Paula Ellis, Dale Farnham, Steve Hofmann, Sherman Lundy, Linda Querry, Dennis Carlson, Patti Ruff, Colleen Miller

SSCWQC Members Called In

Kevin Pope

Partners Present

Jaia Fischer (NRCS), Tim Hall (DNR), Larry Roehl (ICEA), Steve Hopkins (DNR)

DSCWQ Staff Present

Susan Kozak, Vince Sitzmann, Jake Hansen, David Suchan, Nicky Gubbels

Guests

Jackie Comito, Ann Stout

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

**2019-17** Farnham moved to approve the agenda; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2019-18** Farnham moved to approve the April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes pending the suggested changes; Hoffman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports

Field Services-Sitzmann (Report on file)

Sitzmann highlighted that there has been significant flood damage in western Iowa and other parts of Iowa, because of this there have been many requests for assistance. In case federal assistance is not an option, staff is in the process of evaluating options that would be available to the SWCD's. Commissioner Training Video 7 will be released for May meetings.

Mines and Minerals-Suchan (Report on File)

Suchan shared that they currently have 9 active projects; 3 wrapping up, 3 were started in the winter, and 3 are just starting. Recently mines and minerals staff have attended the eAmlis training in Alton IL, and the Sediment and Erosion training in NM.

Water Resources-Hansen (Report on File)

Hansen discussed flooding issues, and how they are moving forward with flood recovery. He also touched on the Iowa Water Conference. It was discussed that the Water Conference move every other year to different parts of the state.

Director's Report-Kozak (Report on File)

Kozak announced that the employee of the month for May is Denise Forret, Conservation Assistant in the Dallas SWCD office. Denise has worked for IDALS for the last 23 years and we would like to wish her a happy retirement. Kozak and Sitzmann attended the 25 NRCS meetings across the state to discuss reorganization. She also highlighted the Cover Crop program as well as the urban request for proposals. Lastly Kozak shared the success of Soil and Water Conservation week.

Presentation-

- Iowa learning Farms

Partner Reports

Conservation Districts of Iowa- Whitaker (Report on File)

See report for details.

Engineers – Roehl (Report on File)

See report for details.

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

DNR is hosting the four state Section 319 Program meeting in Des Moines from June 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> located at the Neil Smith Wildlife Refuge. This meeting will also feature two Des Moines Watershed tours. DNR staff planted 29 native Iowa trees along a two block stretch near the Wallace Building. This was done in honor of Al Foster.

#### Iowa State Extension –Benning (Report on File)

Benning shared the talking points in the “Talking to your landlord about conservation series”. She also discussed flood recovery efforts with the committee. Finally Benning ended by sharing upcoming events.

#### Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

#### Natural Resource Conservation Service – Fischer

NRCS has received their final allocation letter, which means they will receive their budget for the year. 25 reorganizational meetings were held across the state to inform NRCS employees and partner employees about our new reorganization. The plan is to reinstall a DC in every county and the support staff will be moved to a resource team that will support 4 counties. NRCS will now be offering a pilot for conservation practices to treat ephemeral erosion. The cutoff for the applications will be June 21<sup>st</sup>.

#### Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates-Gubbels
  - Gubbels shared that a most R&D grants have reports and invoices due this month, and a full report will be given at next meeting. She also shared an upcoming field day event for the 2018 Southfork grant
- Summer Tour update
  - Kozak shared that we have been meeting on it internally and in the upcoming week we will be doing a drive through of proposed tour.
- Division Budget Proposal
  - Ellis reviewed the budget proposal process with the committee

#### Subcommittee Reports

- Ellis review the Subcommittee assignments with the committee and adjusted assignments where needed.

#### SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- None

#### SSCWQC Member Reports

- Farnham- Our area has had some rain but nothing excessive.
- Lundy- Planting has started, however we are waiting for things to dry out.
- Miller- We got 4-6 inches of snow. We still have a lot of field work to do.
- Hofmann- A lot of planting got done. There is also a lot of conservation working being done.
- Pope- Snow has finally melted, after receiving 6 inches last week. It is still very wet so little planting has been done.
- Querry- Very busy, fall work is finally done. The river is still high along with some flooding.
- Carlson-There still has been snow, so only a few planting days have happened. Enjoyed Ag. Farm Day.
- Ellis- It is still very wet. We only have half the crop planted. Participated in Farm Safety for Kids.
- Ruff- Planting has been in progress but due to recent weather things are too wet to continue.

#### Adjournment

Ellis adjourned the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

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Paula Ellis, SSCWQC Chair

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Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Acting Division Director