

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, Thursday, July 11th 2019, 10:00 A.M.
Wallace Building, Conference Room 2

Minutes for July 11th, 2019

SSCWQC Members Present

Kevin Pope, Steve Hofmann, Dale Farnham, Colleen Miller

SSCWQC Members Called In

Sherman Lundy, Patti Ruff

DSCWQ Staff Present

Susan Kozak, Jake Hansen, Vince Sitzmann, Nicky Gubbels

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

2019-25 Farnham moved to approve the agenda; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2019-26 Farnham moved to approve the June 10th, 2019 meeting minutes; Hofmann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services-Sitzmann

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- 3 remaining offices that continue to have a shared CA.
- The standardized treasurer's report is being finalized. Additional training will be provided to staff over the next 1-3 months.

Mines and Minerals-Suchan

Suchan highlighted the following items in his report;

- Mines and Minerals currently has 9 active projects, 3 in the design phase
- The team has been working hard on addressing emergencies as they arise.

Water Resources-Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards received 56 nominations and will meet with the selection committee on July 12th to select awardees. The awards will be on August 14th at the Penningroth Center at the Iowa State Fair.
- The Watershed Planning Advisory council will meet September 5th for their fall planning meeting.
- Water Resources Bureau new hire- Casey Judge, Environmental Specialist Senior.

Director's Report-Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Attended a Southern Iowa Development and Conservation Alliance (SIDCA) meeting.
- Attended a pollinator/STRIPS field day in Badger Creek Lake watershed & the grant reopening celebration for Easter lake
- WQI Statewide is now open, 1st time apps get preference until the end of July.
- EPA GOM announcement- \$1.5M from EPA to deliver 6 water quality wetlands in the Middle Cedar.

Partner Reports (Reports on file)

Conservation Districts of Iowa- Whitaker

Whitaker highlighted the following items in his report;

- Matt Lohr will now be able to speak at the CDI annual conference.
- CDI is working with a group of district employees who are interested in forming a district employee association. The main intent of this group is to be able to form a group health insurance plan.

Engineers – Roehl

No report

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- On June 26th Governor Kim Reynolds appointed Kayla Lyon as the first female director of the Iowa DNR.
- DNR helped celebrate Easter Lake's grant reopening. DNR supported this project through EPA Section 319 funding and DNR Lake Restoration funding.

- Hopkin sadly announced the passing of onsite wastewater specialist, Dan Olson

Iowa State Extension –Benning

Benning highlighted items in her report;

- On July 8th Kay Stefanik will be the new Assistant Director of the Iowa Nutrient Research Center.
- Iowa Farm and Rural Life poll showed conservation increasing, however rented land is still a barrier.

Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

Natural Resource Conservation Service –Simon

Verbal report given at joint meeting, the following topics were discussed;

- 30 communities are seeking assistance from the Emergency Watershed protection program.
- There have been 216 requests for flood plain easements, \$151M was requested, and \$102M was awarded. These funds will be spent over the next 2 years.
- NRCS has had opened 123 job positions in the last 30 days.

Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates-Gubbels
 - Gubbels shared that there were no updates, however she will be sending out quarterly reports for most grants prior to the next meeting.

Subcommittee Reports

- None

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Appointments
 - Jasper-Recommendation to appoint Greg Padget to fill the unexpired term of Jim Johnston.

2019-27 Farnham moved to approve the above recommendations. Hofmann Seconded. Approved unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Farnham- There has been a lot of rain, you can see many areas that need improvement. Beans got planted late and keep getting flooded.
- Lundy- Progression planting late. Hoping for some good weather for good crop yield.
- Hofmann- It has been very dry and the beans have already been affect by this. Very good hay yield.
- Miller- The corn is starting to tassel and the beans look great, however some areas are behind.
- Pope- It has been cool and wet. Prevent planting fields are hurting, however the corn is about to tassel.

Adjournment

Pope adjourned the meeting at 11:22 p.m.

Kevin Pope, SSCWQC Vice Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director