

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, Thursday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Following Annual Conference**  
**Gateway Hotel/ Conference Call**  
**Phone: 866-685-1580    Code: 5152815851**

**Minutes for August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

SSCWQC Members Present

Paula Ellis, Kevin Pope, Steve Hofmann, Linda Querry, Colleen Miller

SSCWQC Members Called In

Sherman Lundy, Patti Ruff, Dale Farnham

DSCWQ Staff Present

Susan Kozak, Vince Sitzmann, Nicky Gubbels

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m.

**2019-28** Hofmann moved to approve the agenda; Miller seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

**2019-29** Hofmann moved to approve the July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2019 meeting minutes; Pope seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports (Reports on file)

Field Services - Kozak

Sitzmann highlighted the following topics in his report;

- 3 remaining offices that continue to have a shared CA. The hope is to have them filled by end of the year.
- Kozak was remorseful to report that Soil Conservation Tech Ned DeBoer passed away in a tractor accident.
- Contacts for 40 SWCD Conservation Tech positions around the state have been sent out.
- Lastly Kozak announced that Will Meyers has accepted the position of Field Services Bureau Chief.

Mines and Minerals - Sitzmann

Suchan highlighted the following items in his report;

- Mines and Minerals currently has 9 active projects, 3 in the design phase.
- The team recently been investigating sink holes to determine if they are coal mine related.
- Staff recently attended OSMRE Instructor Training Course in West Virginia.

Water Resources - Hansen

Hansen highlighted the following topics in his report;

- There are a total of 24 projects that are under development in various phases between CREP, WQI, and SF512.
- 53 recipients were honored with Iowa Farm Environmental Leader Awards on August 15<sup>th</sup> at the State fair.
- Water Resources Bureau new hire- Casey Judge, Environmental Specialist Senior.

Director's Report - Kozak

Kozak highlighted the following items in her report;

- Met with Decatur County staff and commissioners for lunch, tour, and county fair.
- Attended Taylor County fair and listened to a presentation on conservation efforts.
- Handed out bananas for the Soil and Water Conservation Society on RAGBRAI.
- 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 was unable to attend, see attached report.

Engineers – Roehl

Roehl was unable to attend, see attached report.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Konrady

Hopkins highlighted the following topics in his report;

- WMA planning grants are due August 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- DNR has selected 8 existing 319-funded watershed projects for continued funding. Each project will be subject to EPA approval, FFY19 grant will total \$2.02M.
- Upper Iowa Nonpoint Source success story was submitted to EPA.

### Iowa State Extension – Benning

Benning highlighted items in her report;

- Shared Soil fertility workshop details and locations.
- Upcoming event-Managing Farmland Drainage for Women Landowners at ISU Extension and Outreach Boone County office.

### Leopold Center – Farnham

Nothing to Report.

### Natural Resource Conservation Service – Simon

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

- Staff is currently trying to obligate contracts for FY19.
- Preparing for implementation of next year's Farm Bill.

### Business

- SSCWQC Research and Demonstration Grant Updates - Gubbels
  - Gubbels shared a complete update on all current grants. Update on file.

### Subcommittee Reports

- None

### SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Vacancies
  - Plymouth- Due to resignation of Pat Winter because of health reasons.
  - Hamilton- Due to resignation of Martin Johnson.

### SSCWQC Member Reports

- Lundy - Black Hawk County is on the mend. Crops are looking good, and we are seeing new practices being implemented.
- Hofmann - We had a bit of a dry spell, it's was about 5 weeks without rain. Since finally getting some rain beans are looking better. Fall work is now underway.
- Miller - There has been a lot of spraying for aphids.
- Ruff - Crops are looking good. We have been seeing a lot of spraying on fields.
- Querry- There has been a lot of spraying for Thistle caterpillars and Japanese beetles. Crops have been looking good.

### Adjournment

Ellis adjourned the meeting at 2:43 p.m.

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Paula Ellis, SSCWQC Chair

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Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Division Director