

**STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE**  
**Monthly Meeting, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2013**  
**Quality Inn & Suites Starlite Village Conference Center, 2601 East 13<sup>th</sup> St, Ames, IA 50010**

Appointed SSCC Members in Attendance:

SSCC Members:

Kelly Tobin, Chair, SSCC Member, New Market  
Jean Eells, SSCC Member, Webster City  
Dale Farnham, SSCC Member, Ames  
Jeani Leyda, SSCC Member, Bloomfield  
Vance Hjelm, SSCC Member, Lake Park  
Tim Palmer, SSCC Member, Truro

Staff in Attendance:

Jim Gillespie, Division Director, DSC  
Vince Sitzmann, DSC, Bureau Chief  
Tarrita Spicer, DSC, Administrative Assistant, Note Taker

Ex Officio Members and Advisors in Attendance:

Steve Hopkins, Department of Natural Resources  
John Lawrence, Iowa State University  
Clare Lindahl, Conservation Districts of Iowa  
Jay Mar, Natural Resources Conservation Service

Absent:

Todd Coffelt, DSC, Bureau Chief  
Jody Kerns, SSCC Member, Edgewood  
Sherman Lundy, SSCC Member, Cedar Falls  
Dave Shanahan, Cherokee County Engineers Association

Meeting called to order at 6:35 pm

**2013 – 5** Farnham moved to approve the minutes for the January 22<sup>nd</sup>, meeting. McCullough seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports

Field Services – Sitzmann (copy of report in file)

- Working on updates to Chapter 10 rules.
- Research & Demonstration Grant 2013- Request for Application is out, deadline April 3, 2013.

Mines & Minerals – Coffelt (copy of report in file)

Water Resources – Coffelt (copy of report in file)

Jay Mar joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m during Water Resources report.

Director's Report – Gillespie (copy of report in file)

- Employee of the Month: January – Tony Toigo; February – Ron Peterson.
- Review of the 2013/14 SSCC/CDI Budget
- Iowa Learning Farms 2012 Evaluation Report

Partner Reports

Natural Resource Conservation Service – Mar (copy of report in file)

- Sequestration went through March 1, 2013; NRCS offices will stay open.
- Currently not looking at furloughs due to no new employees were hired after 2010.
- Many funding sources in Iowa have made it easier to make flexible decisions to avert furloughs at this time.
- Will only fill positions deemed critical.
- Decrease/cut intern programs.
- Will impact Conservation Security payments.

Iowa Department of Natural Resources – Hopkins (copy of report in file)

- Discussed Nutrient Reduction Strategy

Conservation Districts of Iowa – Frederick (copy of report in file)

- CDI has officially moved to the new location in Ankeny.
- Currently accepting applications for a part time (24 hrs. per week) administrative assistant through March 29, 2013.

Iowa State Extension - Lawrence

- Continuing to monitor drought conditions to decide on cover crop options
- Karl Brooks, Region 7 EPA will be on campus doing a lecture, March 5, 2013, at 7 p.m.
- Introduction of Dr. Mahdi Al-Kaisi who has worked at ISU for 12 years, will start attending SSCC meetings as needed.

Leopold Center – Farnham

- New Director - Dr. Mark Rasmussen

#### Old Business

Discuss ISAC meeting – SSCC invited to present for one hour at Fall meeting. (discuss at April meeting)

Regional Meetings – 5 meetings left

Summer Tour (tour sites)

- **Bob Lynch's farm – Ag Drainage Wells and photos of sites assuming everything has been covered over... Bob has been taking pictures.**
- Gilmore City research site – long ways from everywhere else, we just had a good overview during a recent meeting.
- **Tour through Gypsum mine/plant. I think Todd has this contact already secured?**
- Webster County Conservation Board has an Ag Drainage Well that is protected by permanent prairie buffer around it.
- Lyon's Creek NE of Webster City – LOTS of testing and emphasis on the area, partnerships with TNC and Iowa Soybean, NRCS, plus more. Long ways from everywhere else.
- **Smeltzer Trust Learning Farm – field tour to see all the conservation practices installed along the creek and more. Near Otho. I have alerted the trustees that we are coming to “reserve” their people mover and a staff person.**
- **Dolliver Memorial Park – dinner and relaxing.**
- I have the lunch caterer lined up, but not the dinner at Dolliver Park. I figure I can pick up the lunches and we haul it in the bus and eat where ever it's best to do so with bathrooms.
- **Lizard Lake**

## New Business

### Soil Loss Limit tentative approval – **Wright County**

- 2013 – 6** Palmer made a motion to approve the Soil Loss Limit submitted by Wright County. Eells seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2013 Soil & Water Conservation Week – ideas are FFA can contest, LICA event in Melbourne, DNR vs. IDALS/DSC competition.

SSCC membership/appointments: Jeani Leyda will be retiring when her term is up, last meeting will be in April; we will hold a recognition ceremony. Paula Ellis was appointed by the Governor to fill the vacancy left from Jeani's retirement.

### Vacancies in the Office of SWCD Commissioner

- Vacancy:
  - Clayton SWCD: Accept the resignation of Lorna Troester, effective January 8, 2013. Accept the recommendation for appointment of Gerry Ommen to fill that vacancy until the next general election November, 2014.
  - West Pott SWCD: Accept the resignation of Erica Bonkowsky-Montefusco, effective January 17, 2013. Accept the recommendation of Rose E. Brown to fill the unexpired term of Erica Bonkowsky-Montefusco.
  - Warren SWCD: vacancy due to resignation of Harold Whipple, 2012.
  - East Pott SWCD: Accept the resignation of Russell Brandes, effective January 29, 2013. Accept the recommendation for appointment of Kami Willett, Assistant Commissioner to fill the vacancy left by Mr. Brandes.

- 2013 – 7** Eells made a motion to approve the resignations, vacancies and appointments in Clayton, West Pott, East Pott and Warren SWCD. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

### SSCC Member Reports

- Vance Hjelm: Reappointed to SSCC; busy during tax season.
- Jean Eells: working on Research & Demonstration grants applications, will assist applicants with questions, guidance. Attended WFAN, March 1<sup>st</sup> conference.
- Jeani Leyda: missed regionals last week due to weather, will attend Wapello County regional. Retiring when term expires as of 5/1/2013.
- Kelly Tobin: attended Union County regionals.
- Tim Palmer: traveled to NACD Nationals in Phoenix with CDI. Will attend Regionals in Feb, will attend a few more. Attended an SWCS meeting on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Charles McCullough: attended Partnership Day, Dubuque County legislative hearing in February. Attending a Stover Removal meeting in march and Dubuque County Regionals.
- Dale Farnham: met with Leopold Center's new Director Dr. Mark Rasmussen in January, attended Story County Commissioner meeting on Feb. 5<sup>th</sup>, new commissioner training on Feb 7<sup>th</sup> and Regional meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>. Will find out about Jennifer Steffen possibly stepping down from Leopold Board.

### Future Meetings

#### Spring Regionals:

Mar. 11th -Reg. 9, Ottumwa 10-2pm  
Reg. 7, Johnson 4-8pm

Mar. 12th - Reg. 4, Delaware 10-2pm  
Reg. 3, Howard 4-8pm

Mar. 13<sup>th</sup> – Reg. 6, Boone 10-2pm

March 5th – 2012 Iowa Water Conference, Scheman Continuing Ed. Bldg., Room TBA, Ames,  
*Quality Inn & Suites Starlite*  
*Located: 2601 East 13<sup>th</sup> St, Ames, Iowa 50010*

April 4                    Thursday 10:00 a.m. Wallace Building  
9:00 a.m. for a sub-committee meeting if needed

April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – 2013 Soil & Water Conservation Week

May 2nd                    Thursday 10:00 a.m. Wallace Building  
9:00 a.m. for a sub-committee meeting if needed

June 11 & 12            State Committee/CDI tour & meeting, Tour, Tuesday, 11th  
CDI/SSCC Joint Meeting 8:00 a.m.  
Regular SSCC meeting after 8:00 a.m. on June 12th, TBD  
Rooms may be reserved under: Iowa Department of Agriculture

**2013 – 8**    Eells made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m. Leyda seconded. Motion carried unanimously.