

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, January 15th 2019, 9:00 A.M.
Wallace Building, 2nd floor conference room

Minutes for January 15th, 2019

SSCWQC Members Present

Kevin Pope, Vance Hjelm, Steve Hofmann, Sherman Lundy

SSCWQC Members Called In

Dale Farnham

Partners Present-

Steve Hopkins (DNR), Kurt Simon (NRCS)

DSCWQ Staff Present

Susan Kozak, Nicky Gubbels

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

2019-1 Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Steve Hoffman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2019-2 Lundy moved to approve the December 6, 2018 meeting minutes; Vance Hjelm seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Bureau Chief Reports

Field Services-Sitzmann (Report on file)

Kozak shared that Sitzmann was unable to attend the meeting however, she highlighted the following items in his included report.

- List of positions that have or will be filled soon
- Greg Quint was hired as a Financial Specialist for the Division. A second Financial Specialist position will be advertised in the next couple of weeks.
- IDALS signed an agreement with Global Reach Internet Productions to develop a new system to process cost share claims. The project is estimated to take 18 months to complete.

Mines and Minerals-Kozak (Report on File)

Kozak shared that due to weather construction has been moving very slowly. The team is however working on getting some projects into design. Six projects have been selected to get into engineering. Lastly Kozak shared that her staff have responded to 3 emergency subsidence events related to underground coal mining.

Water Resources-Hansen (Report on File)

Hansen was unable to attend the meeting, due to sitting in on CDI's board meeting. Kozak did note that they are trying to hold a Hypoxia Task Force meeting but due to the government shutdown, the meeting may not be able to be held as planned.

Director's Report-Kozak (Report on File)

Kozak announced that the December Employee of the month was awarded to Ronald Peterson, State Technician in the Monroe SWCD. Ron has surveyed 27 pipeline projects for the 2018 Emergency Drought Relief Program for Equip, and designed 15 of them. She also shared that there has been a few planning meetings for the SF512 funding received last year. Urban Conservation has requested applications for urban projects due in February. Lastly Kozak wrapped up by sharing about LIDAR; NRCS applied for and received the USGS grant with will now give about 3-4 counties brand new LIDAR. Previously we were at a quality level of 3.4-4 this new LIDAR will put us now at a 2 with 1 being the best.

Partner Reports

Conservation Districts of Iowa- Whitaker (Report on File)

Engineers – No Report

No report however Larry Roehl will fill the Engineers vacancy starting in February.

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

Steve Hopkins shared that pre-applications for Watershed Planning Grants for groups interested in funding to develop 9-element Watershed Management Plans are due February 28th, 2019. A completed, approved 9-element WMP is a pre-requisite for EPA section 319 funding for watershed project implementation. Hopkins also shared the Lime Creek Nonpoint Source success story has been posted in the EPA Website.

Iowa State Extension –Benning (Report on File)

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 touched on how the lapse in funding is affecting NRCS. Within the USDA service centers FSA is closed, this means that their offices are shut to the public. NRCS is fully operational and attending to business as usual, all staff members are still working nationwide. The reason that NRCS can continue to stay open where FSA cannot is due to the way funding is received.

Old Business

Business

- SSCWQC Research & Demonstration Grant Updates- Gubbels (Report on File)
 - Gubbels stated that there were no new invoices to share but there will be some to review in February.
- R& D Grant-FY20 request for proposals
 - Kozak wanted to point out that the request for proposals for 2020 is coming up soon. She went on to say that, she would be reviewing the budget to see how much funding can be put toward this program.

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Webster-Recommend to appoint Chris Lamert to fill a vacancy due to failure to elect.

2019-3 Lundy moved to approve the recommendation from the Webster SWCD. Hjelm Seconded. Approved unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Farnham- Not many changes
- Lundy- The weather has been hard on this year's cover crops.
- Hjelm- Attended "Cover Crop Advantage" farmer stress was a topic covered, very interesting topic.
- Pope- It has been an odd winter with the lack of snow in North Central Iowa. There has been some dirt work done. Attended R&D grant workshop. Mason City has had severe neighborhood flooding.
- Hofmann- It has been very windy and snow. Have been attending meetings.

Adjournment

Pope adjourned the meeting at 10:28 a.m.

Paula Ellis, SSCWQC Chair

Susan Kozak, DSCWQ Acting Division Director