

STATE SOIL CONSERVATION & WATER QUALITY COMMITTEE
Monthly Meeting, Thursday, April 4th 2019, 9:00 A.M.
Wallace Building, 2nd floor conference room

Minutes for April 4th, 2019

SSCWQC Members Present

Paula Ellis, Dale Farnham, Kevin Pope, Steve Hofmann, Sherman Lundy, Vance Hjelm, Linda Querry, Dennis Carlson

Partners Present

Kurt Simon (NRCS), Tim Hall (DNR), Larry Roehl (ICEA), John Whitaker (CDI), Steve Hopkins (DNR)

DSCWQ Staff Present

Susan Kozak, Vince Sitzmann, Jake Hansen, Nicky Gubbels

Guests

Julie Kenney, Colleen Miller

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

2019-12 Lundy moved to approve the agenda; Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2019-13 Lundy moved to approve the March 6th, 2019 meeting minutes; Hoffman seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Division Director Discussion

Deputy Secretary Julie Kenney had an open discussion with the committee regarding the interviews that were held for the director's position. The three committee member that also conducted the interviews presented the three candidates to refer to Secretary Mike Naig.

2019-14 Hoffman moved to approve the three candidates to present to Secretary Mike Naig.

Bureau Chief Reports

Field Services-Sitzmann (Report on file)

Sitzmann highlighted that the Field Reps have been spending a lot of time trying to fill the vacant Conservation Assistant positions.

Mines and Minerals-Kozak (Report on File)

Kozak shared that all the trees have been cleared on new constructions sites and projects are moving along. Kozak also highlighted that she met with environmental policy students from the University of Iowa. Lastly she wrapped up by saying the AML program submitted information for the reauthorization website "ourWorksNotDone.org."

Water Resources-Hansen (Report on File)

Hansen stated that not much has changed since his report. As far as the spring outlook, it has been reported that there is a high likelihood of vulnerability along the Cedar and Mississippi River.

Director's Report-Kozak (Report on File)

Kozak announced that the employee of the month for March was Rebekah Benson, State Technician in the Sioux SWCD office. Rebekah has been a huge help for the last 3 construction season and is always willing to help wherever needed. She finished by sharing that this past month has been busy and to refer to the list provided in the packet to see all the meetings that have taken place.

Partner Reports

Conservation Districts of Iowa- Whitaker (Report on File)

Whitaker started by thanking everyone who attended the Spring Regionals. He reminded the committee that the State Envirothon will be held April 8th at Jester Park.

Engineers – Roehl (Report on File)

Roehl shared that the road departments are actively working to repair roads during the spring thaw progress, this spring will be more severe than normal. Unfortunately the flooding is most likely not done, and several bridges have been lost already.

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

Hopkins shared that the DNR Watershed Improvement to Offer New Clean Water Quality Awareness & Education Grants begins March 28th and Applications are due on May 31st. He ended with telling the committee that Alan Bonini will be reviewing DNR's Annual Report later in the meeting.

Iowa State Extension –Benning (Report on File)
Benning was unable to attend the meeting. See report for details.

Leopold Center – Farnham
Nothing to Report.

Natural Resource Conservation Service – Simon
Simon reviewed the budget with the committee and where they stand as of right now. He also shared that they were approved to open up 20 more positions that will be posted soon.

Business

- Review soil loss limit amendments
- Committee members receiving district meeting minutes
 - The committee decided they would like to continue to receive the reports from the districts in their area.
- Summer Tour update
 - Gubbels provided a brief update on the hotel arrangements for summer tour and confirmed the location.
- Linn SWCD commissioner discussion
 - State committee decided that they will deem that there is a vacancy in Linn County due to failure to be sworn in within specified time constraint. A letter will be sent with Ellis's signature stating the committee's decision.

2019-14 Pope moved to approve the soil loss amendments. Farnham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Presentations

DNR Annual Report-Allen Bonini

Subcommittee Reports

- Soil, Water & Mineral
 - The SWM reviewed Henry SWCD REAP water protection fund practices application.

2019-15 Lundy Move to approve Henry County SWCD REAP application. Farnham seconded. Approved unanimously.

SWCD Vacancies / Appointments

- Jasper- Recommendation to appoint Leo Miller to fill the unexpired term of Dennis Clapper

2019-16 Hofmann moved to approve the recommendation from the Jasper SWCD. Farnham seconded. Approved unanimously.

SSCWQC Member Reports

- Farnham- Not a lot to report on. Frost is gone.
- Lundy- Have been seeing some flooding. Black Hawk County has hired a new CA. There has been some late field work due to harsh weather.
- Hjelm- The frost is on its way out, however there are still some snow piles lingering.
- Hofmann- It's still very wet. Fertilizer hasn't been placed on fields yet.
- Pope- There is still snow and frost in the area. No cover crops showing yet. No flooding issues.
- Querry- There has been some bad flooding. Farm fields are devastated. There are however some cover crops showing.
- Carlson-Weight limits on county roads are active. About time for spring tree planting.
- Ellis- Things are looking really green especially cover crops.

Adjournment

Ellis adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.