

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Thursday, January 28, 2021
1:00 p.m.**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Doug Kaiser
Bob Muchmore
Becky Lindsay
Tim Halligan
Sean Dolan

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Tessa Roth, Team Resource Conservationist
Griffin Cabalka, NACD Technician Assistant
Tori Nimrod, NE IA RC & D
Ross Evelsizer, NE IA RC & D
Claire Carlson, CDI
Allie Rath, Pheasants Forever

The meeting was called to order by Kaiser at 1:01 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Kaiser called to adopt the agenda. Althaus added Organizational Meeting Minutes and RC & D Report.
21-40 Motion by Dolan to approve the agenda with the addition of Approval of the Organizational Meeting Minutes and the RC & D Report. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Kaiser called for a discussion and approval of the minutes from the December 29, 2020 meeting.
21-41 Motion by Dolan to approve the minutes from the December 29, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Organizational Meeting Minutes – January 4, 2021

Kaiser called for a discussion and approval of the Organizational Meeting Minutes on January 4, 2021.
21-42 Motion by Lindsay to approve the Organizational Meeting Minutes on January 4, 2021. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for December 2020 – Report was given.

Althaus explained that she had a review on Wednesday, January 27th with Cynthia Davis. We have checks outstanding, that need to be voided. They have been carried for quite awhile. Althaus stated that she learned a lot and it was beneficial.

21-43 Motion by Muchmore to approve the December 2020 Treasurer's Report and also approve to VOID the outstanding checks. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Wapsi River Management Authority – Tori Nimrod and Ross Evelsizer

Nimrod gave the report to the commissioners that Bid Packet #3 was awarded to Dan Oberbreckling in the amount of \$110,000.00, this was 3 projects and project #4 was awarded to Cole Excavating in the amount of \$198,000.00. Bid Packet#4 will be closing this afternoon. Packets #6 and #7 we are waiting on documents so they can put those out for bid. They are getting a lot of interest with the bid packets.

Middle Cedar River Watershed – Nothing currently

Pheasants Forever Report – Rath reviewed the last Quarterly Report – October through December. Currently working with a landowner wanting to do Wetland and has gotten the ball rolling prior to the CRP re-enrollment.

She has had 50 landowner contacts. She has been working a lot with new Biologists, since she has taken on her new position.

She and Mary Hansen, CRP Technician – FSA, hosted a Virtual CRP Meeting the night before, it went great, there were only 5 in attendance. There was a lot of good information along with questions. The meeting was 1.5 hrs. long. There is another CRP Virtual Meeting this evening in Linn County.

She is also working on a couple of EQIP contracts.

District Conservationist Report –Tessa Roth – Acting DC

- Field Day in Oelwein – On January 16th, Erin Grew had a presentation for a class. They did a demonstration on Bioreactor, wetland & pond to see how things worked. Roth took the Rainfall Simulator. It was soil health from 8:00 – 12:00 p.m.
- Security Awareness Guidance – Roth went over this with this everyone.
- EQIP – Deadline for the ranking of these 31 applications is next Friday / non-farm bill target fund. We are hoping to fund 20% of them. The question was what is the target for EQIP? Roth stated that it is almost funding specific.
- CSP extended to February 19th – for all applications and workload.
- Staff – Griffin will be thrown into the rodeo; he is taking the bull by the horns. Kaiser welcomed Griffin and thanked him for his input-on Monday's Zoom meeting.
- Misc. – Roth stated that we could be seeing some transitioning from new presidency.

5 Year Plan – new contact Claire Carlson –

Claire stated that she felt very good after the meeting on Monday, January 25th. There will be another meeting in February, she asked about the 15th or the 23rd of February. The commissioners stated the 15th would work well, we will use the 23rd as a back up if there is a need. She will have the first draft will be done, and then developing our goals.

Fusion Forward to Update Website

Althaus asked the commissioners a couple of questions, Althaus asked if the commissioners wanted their email on the website – that was a no. Althaus also asked the minutes and treasurers report will be going on the

website, for those that are interested in the minutes. She asked how far back would you want her to go back 2 years or just the start of this year?

21-44 Motion by Lindsay to start of FY2021. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation Contribution - \$125.00

It was asked what do they do, Althaus had explained that we have been contributors in the past, don't know why we didn't get a renewal notice for FY2020. It was explained that they assist with a lot of conservation practices, also in the purchase of land to continue those practices.

21-45 Motion by Lindsay to make a contribution of \$125.00. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Supervisor's Annual Allocation – Althaus made the commissioners aware that we received \$3,000.00 this year from the Buchanan County Supervisors as usual. So, if anyone sees a County Supervisor, please make sure that you say Thank You.

Commissioners' Meetings – Time and Zoom? Lindsay stated that she is open to do whatever. Dolan stated that the afternoon worked better for him; Muchmore was ok with whatever the decision would be.

21-46 Motion by Lindsay to make the start times for the commissioner meeting will be at 1:00 p.m. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Zoom – It was discussed the options of Zoom, but Althaus stated that we would need to do it monthly and it is \$14.99 per month. Doug was going to check into seeing if Julie could be a co-host.

Annual Report –

Althaus asked the commissioners if they could type a short bio, because she really wants to kick off their 75th Anniversary with a bang! Then she will get a quick picture of them.

Conservation Plans- 6

Cost Share Approval – None Currently

Completed Cost Share – None Currently

Bills for January 2021

Revolving Account – NSB (Northeast Security Bank)

Office Towne	\$ 40.00	Chk#4556 – Battery for Computer
Blands Flower Shop	\$ 53.49	Chk#4557 – Memorial
Oelwein Publishing	\$133.00	Chk#4558 – Help Wanted Ad – NACD Tech Assist.
Oelwein Publishing	\$ 9.62	Chk#4559 – Advertising for 5 Yr. Planning meeting
Griffin Cabalka	\$107.64	Chk#4560 - Mileage to Ames for Linc Pass
IA Dept of Revenue	\$121.00	EFT – Sales Tax for the 4 th Qtr. of FY2020
Soil and Water Cons. Soc.	<u>\$115.00</u>	Chk#4561 – Renewal for the Year FY2021
Total	\$579.75	

Employee Acct. – Veridian

IDALS – 780 Hr.	\$1,876.37	Chk#2587 – 10/20 thru 12/20 – Jim Brown
Cabalka, Griffin	<u>\$ 190.19</u>	Chk#2588 – 1/19 – 1/21/21 – 13 hrs. Payroll
Total	\$2,066.56	

21-47 Motion by Dolan to approve the Conservation Plans, and bills for January 2020. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Other Items:

Next Meeting date February 23, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. via Conference Call or Zoom.

Adjourned @ 2:05 p.m.

21-48 Motion by Lindsay to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

will Bobby Lundberg 3-1-21
Chairman Date

Julie Altraud 3-1-21
Secretary Date