

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, May 26, 2020
At
VIA Conference Call
7:30 a.m.**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Doug Kaiser
Becky Lindsay
Bob Muchmore
Phil Short
Tim Halligan

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Dave Mack, District Conservationist
Allie Rath, Pheasants Forever

The meeting was called to order by Kaiser at 7:32 a.m.

Adopt Agenda

Kaiser called to adopt the agenda.

20-66 Motion by Short to approve the agenda. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Kaiser called for a discussion and approval of the minutes from the March 31, 2020 meeting.

20-67 Motion by Short to approve the minutes from the March 31, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for March 31, 2020 – Report was given.

20-68 Motion by Lindsay approve the March 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Short. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report for April 30, 2020 – Report was given

20-69 Motion by Lindsay to approve the April 30, 2020 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Update on Standardized Treasurer's Report – Althaus explained that she is working with Dan Hawkins from DSCWQ and wants to get it wrapped up.

Pheasants Forever Report

Rath gave her report and went over her quarterly report for the commissioners. Althaus had sent it out to the commissioners to look over. She completed 6 workshops She is working on General CRP planning and a couple of EQIP contracts.

District Conservationist Report –Dave Mack

- Update on Staff Situation –

Mack presented to the commissioners that Lissa's last day was on May 8th, she received a promotion to head to West Union as a Soil Conservationist. She has still been helping us out where needed.

Tyler Durre's last day is June 26th, he is headed to Lincoln, Nebraska and was hired as a Soil Scientist. This is the career that he has been pursuing.

On June 22nd, we will have a new Soil Conservationist, his name is Evan Ronnebaum. He lives up by Edgewood. He did an internship in Delaware County.

Jim Brown's last day was on May 8th, he is out of hours, so he is done until the next go around of the 780 hours.

Jeff Lutz, is still helping us with the engineering.

There has been a lot of new hires in the team, that is based out of Vinton. We are making sure they are aware of our needs.

- CSP –
We received 13 applications. These will be ranked and processed accordingly.
- EQIP-
We had 41 applications. Tyler and Dave have been working on these. Six have been selected for funding. One application is requesting to cancel, due to unexpected farm expenses. There has been \$543,000.00 over 5 applications. We still have 20 more really good applications, so hopefully we will see some funding in round 2.
- COVID-19 (Office) –
Office is still closed for right now. FSA is gearing up to open. We have not heard any real details from NRCS yet.
- CRP –
We have a lot of contracts, which adds a lot of paperwork to get done yet. Those working on that have been Tyler, Allie, and Dave.
- Tree Sale – it went really well, Tyler and Dave assisted, and Julie had everything organized. It went really smooth.

- 1026's – Wetland and HEL Determinations
We have been working on them, Tyler and Julie have been working on the HEL's, and Laura has a lot of the Wetland Determinations completed. So hopefully, we will not receive a land slide of them, we will see a trickle. Which will be much easier to handle.
- Upper Wapsi – Trying to find some money for a \$30,000 project, so Dave has been in touch with Tori.
- 5% Spot checks – Dave was delegated to do Tama County, so he has been down there a couple of days.
- Cost Share Cap – Our current cost share cap is at \$7,500.00. We need to look at the pros and cons of raising it. There are quite a few counties that don't have a cap.

20-70 Motion by Lindsay to table until our June meeting. Seconded by Phil. Motion carried.

The question was asked by a commissioner on why only a few of the applications for EQIP were approved. Dave explained that it is due to the new Farm Bill has new priority areas. Wildlife and Cover Crops ranked higher.

2020 NACD Technical Assistance Grant

Dave and Julie explained that they had a conference call with DSC, which included Will Meyers, Bureau Chief of DSCWQ, Lori Lewis, Administrative Assistant of DSCWQ, and Bobby Kuennen, Field Representative of DSCWQ/ NE IA. We have the opportunity to apply for this grant through NACD, which could help us get another person in the office or use as a back up for Jim, if DSCWQ does not provide the districts the opportunity to participate in the 780 Hr. Program. The details are that we apply for the grant, NACD provides \$40,000, and then there is a 10% match – 5% (\$5,000.00) DSCWQ and 5% (\$5,000.00) District. There are currently 3 districts in NE IA that are utilizing it, Clay County, Dubuque County and Howard. Julie has spoke with Gina, CA in Clayton County and she absolutely loves it. It is easy to do the reports and they are great to work with. As of right now, we need to get the approval of the commissioners, if they want to pursue. The application is due on June 1st.

20-71 Motion by Lindsay to pursue the 2020 NACD Technical Assistance Grant. Seconded by Short. Motion carried.

2020 Local Scholarships –

Our recipients were as follows: North Linn – Austin Miller, will need to bring his transcripts in so we can give him his scholarship money; East Buchanan – Logan Crawford, money was sent to the Funds of the Future; Independence – Landry Jones, we will not have to cut a check, since they were using money that was not allocated to a student.

Tree Sale – Update – Final Report in June

Julie reported that things went well. We had more than normal special orders this year. We are on the downside of the trees. After she contacts, Independence Parks and Rec, she will send out what she has left. The final report will be completed in June.

Website – options for Current or Redo

Have proposal read for the commissioners at the June Meeting.

Conservation Plans – 11

Cost Share Approval – April 2020

Aaron Stavens	Windbreak	REAP – P	Est. Amt. \$3,098.00	CS Amt. \$1,600.00
---------------	-----------	----------	----------------------	--------------------

*Approval on May 1st for the approval of cost share, by email. Will verbally approve at May meeting.

Cost Share Approval – May 2020

ALJUMKAAL Farm	Grassed WW	Est. Amt. \$12,047.75	CS Amt. \$6,023.87
Tobin Albert	Grassed WW	Est. Amt. \$10,197.00	CS Amt. \$5,098.50
Cook Bros.	Grassed WW	Est. Amt. \$41,717.50	CS Amt. \$7,500.00

Completed Cost Share – April 2020

Nathan Alber	Windbreak	REAP- F/NG	Total Expenses 1,249.70	CS Amt. \$700.07
--------------	-----------	------------	-------------------------	------------------

*Approval on May 4th for the approval of cost share by email. Will verbally approve at May meeting.

Bills for April 2020

Revolving Account – NSB (Northeast Security Bank)

East Buchanan Funds of the Future	\$700.00	pd chk #4512 – Scholarship	04/28/2020
Print Express	\$ 58.00	pd chk #4513-Tree Pkup Cards	04/28/2020
Julie Althaus	\$ 28.35	pd chk #4514- Postage for tree cards	04/28/2020
IA Dept. of Ag	<u>\$1,883.69</u>	pd chk #2584-780 Hr. Payment	04/28/2020

Total \$2,670.04

*Approval on May 4th for the approval of payment of bills via email. Will verbally approve at May meeting.

1M Reimbursement for 3rd Qtr. of FY20 (January, February, March)

Tim Halligan	\$28.08	pd chk #4515
Doug Kaiser	\$42.12	pd chk#4516
Becky Lindsay	\$24.96	pd chk#4517
Bob Muchmore	\$0.00	
Phil Short	<u>\$40.56</u>	pd chk#4518
Total	\$135.72	

Office Supplies, Dues, Postage - \$1,023.60

Overall Total \$1,1159.32

*Approval on May 4th for the approval of the 1M Reimbursement to the commissioners for the 3rd Qtr. Will verbally approve at May meeting.

Bills for May 2020

Revolving Account – NSB (Northeast Security Bank)

Northern Iowa Construction	\$ 525.00	Chk# 4519 – Fabric	5.26.20
Schumacher’s Nursery	\$7,309.50	Chk# 4520 – Trees	5.26.20
Buchanan Cty Fairgrounds	\$ 185.00	Chk# 4521 – Trees Bldg Rental	5.26.20
US Post Office	\$ 55.00	Chk#4522 – Postage	5.26.20
Mike Pech	<u>\$ 24.88</u>	Chk#4523 – Refund on Trees	5.26.20
	\$8,099.38		

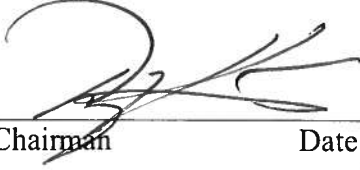
20-72 Motion by Lindsay to approve Conservation Plans; Cost Share Approval – April 2020; Cost Share Approval – May 2020; Completed Cost Share – April 2020; Bills for April 2020; 1M Expenses for 3rd Qtr.; and Bills for May 2020. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion Carried.

Other Items –

Next Meeting will be on June 23rd at 7:30 a.m. USDA or via teleconference or at the USDA Office, pending on COVID guidelines.

Adjourned @ 8:25 a.m.

20-73 Motion by Lindsay to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Short. Motion carried.


Chairman _____ Date 6/23/2020


Secretary _____ Date 6/23/2020