

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, December 29, 2020
7:32 a.m.**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Doug Kaiser
Bob Muchmore
Becky Lindsay
Tim Halligan

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Tessa Roth, Team Resource Conservationist
Sean Dolan, New Commissioner
Tori Nimrod, NE IA RC & D
Ross Evelsizer, NE IA RC & D

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

Adopt Agenda

Kaiser called to adopt the agenda. Althaus added additional bill to Print Express in the Amount of \$117.60; Voluntary Recall to the Division of Soil Conservation on REAP F/NG and REAP P; Asking for additional funds Tree Planting for Sparky Duroe.

21-30 Motion by Lindsay to approve the agenda with the addition of bill to Print Express in the amount of \$117.60; Voluntary Recall of Funds to the Division of Soil and Conservation for REAP P and REAP F/NG; and additional funds request for a state cost share project. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Kaiser called for a discussion and approval of the minutes from the November 30, 2020 meeting.

21-31 Motion by Lindsay to approve the minutes from the November 30, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

Althaus went through each page of the Treasurer's Report. It was discussed to show the whole check register, and it was decided to just show the current one for the current FY.

Althaus the CD due that was due on Dec. 4th in the amount of \$27,011.09 has been renewed at the rate of 0.80%

21-32 Motion by Muchmore to approve the November 2020 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Wapsi River Management Authority – Tori Nimrod and Ross Evelsizer

Nimrod gave the report to the commissioners there are 3 projects that are completed. They have 5 additional projects that are currently under construction. They have 3 bid packets going out for 2 oxbows and 2 retaining ponds. In addition, they have 9 projects that they are working on another bid pack for. They have 7 waiting for designs yet. All these projects need to be completed by December 31, 2021.

On February 11th at 1:30 p.m. will be the quarterly meeting for the UWMA via Zoom, so on top of your invites.

Received the water sampling back, they seen lower level of nitrates, but this could be caused from the dryer weather. The samples were higher in E. coli and Total Phosphates.

Nimrod stated that they plan on continuing water sampling and would like the commissioners support on the assistance of cost sharing on the sampling. There will be a total of 32 samples, the cost would be split with the Buchanan SWCD commissioners and the Buchanan County Conservation. The cost would be approximately \$288.00, and the remainder would go to Buchanan County Conservation.

21-33 Motion by Lindsay to approve the \$288.00 for water samples for FY21. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

The question was asked what was the percentage that was private vs. public. Nimrod that she would send out an email with that information.

Middle Cedar River Watershed – Nothing currently

Pheasants Forever Report – Nothing currently

District Conservationist Report –Tessa Roth – Acting DC

- CSP – January 15th is the cutoff date for CSP applications. Right now, we have 3 applications.
- CRP – working on re-enrollments right now, Evan has been doing an awesome job getting those checked.
- EQIP – December 18th was the last of signup, we currently have 39 applications. So, it is a pretty good-sized workload. This all depends if the applicant is ranked high enough. The highest ranked will get the money if we have enough. This is a state pool, so it is ranked, and it is very competitive. At one time, each county had a pot of money, we must be vigilant on getting them in the right program.
- COVID (Office) – Right now we are limited to 1 person in a common area, so the staff has been working together to make this work. We do have a Soil Conservationist from the Vinton Office coming up to help with CRP.

2020 NACD Technical Assistance Grant

Althaus gave an update on our Technician Assistant – we did hire Griffin Calbalka and he has been working on his paperwork. We are hoping for a January 15th start date.

It was discussed about reimbursing Griffin for his mileage to go to Ames and back to get his Linc pass. The commissioners receive 0.39 per mile for coming to the office. The IRS rate is 0.59, but that is for doing your work business with your personal vehicle.

Also, it was discussed that our watershed coordinator received 2 weeks, that could be used for sick time or vacation. Althaus asked if that could be discussed so she could let Griffin know.

21-34 Motion by Lindsay to approve the reimbursement for mileage at the rate of 0.39 and 2 weeks for vacation or sick time. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

5 Year Plan – new contact Claire Carlson – Looking at January and February

It was discussed that our Locally Led meeting will be done on January 25th at 1:00 p.m. and then we will have the final in February. It was discussed about sending an invite via hard mail.

21-35 Motion by Muchmore to send out a hard mail invitation. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Fusion Forward to Update Website

Althaus explained that we have a contract to sign on what is expected out of us and what their job is to us. Also, it is needed to send in a deposit of ½ in the amount of \$280.00. This was voted back in August or September. Wanted to make sure all lines of communication were open.

Conservation Plans- 4

21- 36 Motion by Muchmore to approve the conservation plans. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Cost Share Approval –

Duroe, Albert Tree Planting 15.6 acres Estimate \$15,600.00 CS Amt. \$11,700.00

It was discussed about the voluntary recall of funds, Althaus stated that she is going to have to ask for additional funds for this project. The commissioners did not want to return any funds at this time.

21-37 Motion by Muchmore to approve the Tree Planting for Albert Duroe. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Completed Cost Share –

Osvald, Dustin	WQI-Cover Crops	149.1 acres	\$2,236.50
Baragary Brothers	WQI-Cover Crops	77 acres	\$1,155.00
Lopata, Al	WQI-Cover Crops	160 acres	\$2,400.00
Wulfekuhle, Al	WQI-Cover Crops	160 acres	\$2,400.00
Gallery, Mike	WQI-Cover Crops	156.8 acres	\$3,920.00
Lotz, Rick	WQI-Cover Crops	140.2 acres	\$3,505.00
Lindsay, Scott	WQI-Cover Crops	160 acres	\$2,400.00
Svoboda, Matt	WQI-Cover Crop	12.05 acres	\$ 301.25
Fangman, Mike	WQI-Cover Crops	160 acres	\$2,400.00
Fangman, Gerald	WQI-Cover Crops	160 acres	\$2,400.00
Fangman, Donnie	WQI-Cover Crops	160 acres	\$2,400.00
Cameron, Craig	WQI-Cover Crops	124.8 acres	\$3,120.00
Cameron, Chris	WQI-Cover Crops	75.1 acres	\$1,877.50
Beatty Family Farms	WQI-Cover Crops	160 acres	\$2,400.00

Bills for December 2020

Revolving Account – NSB (Northeast Security Bank)
Post Office \$220.00 Chk#4547 – Postage for Tree Sales

IDALS	\$ 25.00
Austin C. Miller	\$700.00
Oelwein Publishing	\$ 25.49
Office Towne, Inc.	\$ 51.95
Coe College	\$279.00
Fusion Forward	\$280.00
Print Express	<u>\$117.80</u>

Chk#4548 – Nursery Permit – Tree Sales
 Chk#4549 – 2020 Scholarship Winner from North Linn
 Chk#4550 – Advertising for Soil Loss Hearing
 Chk#4551 - Office Supplies - Labels
 Chk#4552 – Donation – UWRMA
 Chk#4553 – Deposit for Website Upgrade

Total \$1,699.24

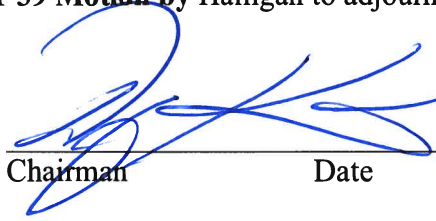
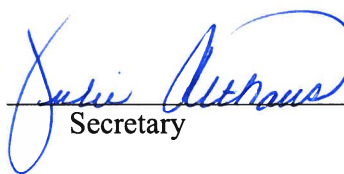
21-38 Motion by Lindsay to approve the Completed Cost Share, and Bills for December 2020, Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Other Items:

Next Meeting date ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – January 4, 2021 @ 7:30 a.m. via Conference Call.
 Regular Commissioners meeting - January 26th @ 7:30 a.m. via Conference Call.

Adjourned @ 8:45 a.m.

21-39 Motion by Halligan to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

	<u>1-28-2021</u>		<u>1-28-2021</u>
Chairman	Date	Secretary	Date