

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, May 25, 2021
10:30 a.m.**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Doug Kaiser
Bob Muchmore
Sean Dolan

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Larry Jones – Acting DC/Tama County
Griffin Cabalka

The meeting was called to order by Kaiser at 10:34 a.m.

Adopt Agenda

Kaiser called to adopt the agenda.

21-61 Motion by Muchmore to approve the agenda. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Kaiser called for a discussion and approval of the minutes from the March 23, 2021 meeting.

21-62 Motion by Dolan to approve the minutes from the March 23, 2021 meeting. Seconded by ~~Halligan~~ ^{Sean} Halligan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for March 2021 – Report was given.

Treasurer's Report for April 2021 – Report was given

21-63 Motion by Dolan to approve the March and April 2021 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Wapsi River Management Authority – Tori Nimrod

Nimrod gave everyone a handout on the projects for the WRMA. They did receive an extension for construction until July 2022.

There is currently 1 bid packet out and it is due on 6/10.

Currently everything is allocated; so, they are prioritizing them. We consider it a success. It was asked of Tori, if there are people still contacting them about cost share, to keep a list and forward them on to Julie.

It was discussed about the voluntary donation of \$600.00 to help with FY2022 for the RC&D, they would really like to keep the project going to get additional monies to keep in improving and this money will go to the expenses that are occurred by the RC&D, while keeping this going.

21-64 Motion by Dolan to donate \$600.00 for 2022 for the Wapsipinicon Watershed Management Authority. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Tori also stated we need to update the main contact for the District, Sean Dolan will be the main contact.

Middle Cedar River Watershed – Nothing to report

Pheasants Forever Report – Althaus stated that she sent the Quarterly report out from Allie Rath. She is currently busy still helping with CRP.

District Conservationist Report –Larry Jones-Acting DC

- EQIP – The office has been busy; we currently have 9 EQIP contracts approved.
- CSP – We have 5 out of 7 contracts approved for CSP.
- CRP – CRP is still currently on hold. Sign up is still open. Question was asked if it would be safe to say the rental rates might go up, that is a possibility. Jones reminded everyone that nothing has been released yet though.
- Staff – Jones stated that the DC position has been filled. No name or when they will be starting as of yet. Stay tune.
- COVID 19 Update – We are still at 50% as of right now and don't know when that will be changing.

Buchanan SWCD 5 Year Plan – Needs to be recorded - \$7.00 Fee Payable to Buchanan County Recorder **21-65 Motion** by Dolan to approve the payment of \$7.00 for this document to be recorded. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Scholarships for 2021

Althaus reported that \$700.00 was rewarded to 3 schools – East Buchanan, Independence, and Jesup

East Buchanan Funds of the Future	\$700.00	Chk#4580 – Recipient TJ Lau
Independence Dollars for Scholars	\$700.00	Chk#4581 – Recipient Carson Frye
Jesup Dollars for Scholars	\$700.00	Chk #4582 – Recipient Anna Sweeney

Tree Sale Report

Althaus went over the status of the report that she gave to the commissioners.

CDI – Sent email out to the commissioners with the document attached for their review

- A. Bylaw Change Letter
- B. Proposed Changes for 2021
- C. Pending Approval 2021

The commissioners discussed this, and it was straight forward. It will be voted on August 23, 2021 at the annual meeting.

Soil Concern-

Byron 6 – Greif Farms LLC – there has been some improvements made on this piece of ground. So, they are addressing the concerns.

Recognition for Phil Short

It was discussed that it needs to get done. Historically, we do dinner out and recognize them. It was decided to have Althaus contact Okoboji, pick the menu, get 3 dates, and we will do this on a Sunday evening, if everything works out. This will include the spouses also. Althaus will email everyone on this.

New Programs

Cost Share – Cover Crops

Althaus explained that there are other partners out there that will be offering Cost Share for Cover Crops along with the State Cost Share. The key is that they can't double dip – meaning getting 2 payments on the same acres.

Women Land and Legacy Group will be doing a seminar on June 15th regarding Carbon Credits. Will send out the info to the Commissioners.

It was also asked about the possibility of putting some links on our website for additional information.

NACD Grant – additional funds

Althaus stated that we applied for additional grant money and we received it. The commissioners' portion to meet the agreement is \$4,100.00. To move forward we will need to have an approval.

21-66 Motion by Muchmore to approve \$4,100.00 for this grant. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

780 Hr. Position –

Althaus stated that she spoke with Jim and asked him if he is still interested in the 780 Hr. position. He stated yes. She wanted to make sure that wanted to do it, so when she asked the commissioners had to the opportunity to complete the paperwork for the 780 Hr. Position. It will be in June and the commissioners' responsibilities with will be 20% of the wages, on a quarterly basis.

21-67 Motion by Dolan to participate in the FY22 780 Hr. program. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Update on Back Log- Team

Althaus let the commissioners know that we are still experiencing back on surveying and designing. Jones stated that the problem lies, that the Vinton Team only has 2 technicians to cover 4 counties. If there is concerns, please contact Shawn Dettman, and keep John in the loop.

Tree Sale –

We will need to issue refunds to the following:

Kristen Jensen	\$130.00	Chk#4572
Void	\$0.00	Chk#4583
Mark Crawford	\$6.76	Chk#4584
Doug Kaiser	\$64.20	Chk#4585
Terry Manders	\$16.05	Chk#4586
Adam Clark	\$65.00	Chk#4587
Void	\$0.00	Chk#4588
CBL Farms	\$130.00	Chk#4589
Aaron Stavens	<u>\$188.86</u>	Chk#4590
Total	\$470.87	

Cost Share Approval –

Goldenstein, Matt	Windbreak	CS Est. \$700.50	CS Amt. \$525.37
Kremer, Ralph	Terrace	CS Est. \$22,457.90	CS Amt. \$10,000.00 Increase Cost
Share an Additional \$7,767.50 (Current Bal. remaining balance in CS Acct. 9,816.94)			

Completed Cost Share –

Halligan, Timothy	WQI – Cover Crops	\$1200.00
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Bagge, John	WQI – Cover Crops	\$750.00
Alber, Nathan	Windbreak	\$605.79
Sperfslage, Andrew	Windbreak	\$1,548.32
Kukson, Nathan	Windbreak	\$1,064.40

21-68 Motion by Dolan to approve Scholarships, Tree Sale Refunds, Cost Share Approval, and Completed Cost Share. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Bills for April 2021

Revolving Account – NSB (Northeast Security Bank)

The NEWS	\$ 185.00	Chk#4575 – FY21 Annual Report
Cy & Charley’s	\$ 184.00	Chk#4576 – 2 tires for the fabric machine
Print Express	\$ 32.50	Chk#4577 – Post Cards for Tree Sale
John Deere Financial	\$ 28.98	Chk#4578 – Fabric Machine/Hitch-Norby’s
Northern IA Constr.	<u>\$ 700.00</u>	Chk#4579 – 4 rolls of Fabric

Total \$1,130.48

Employee Acct. – Veridian

Cabalka, Griffin	VOID	CHK#2594
Cabalka, Griffin	\$ 977.42	Chk#2595 – 3.19 – 4.1.21 80 hrs. Pay Period 6
Cabalka, Griffin	\$ 977.42	Chk#2596 – 4.2 – 4.22.21 – 80 hrs. Pay Period 7
IPERS - March 15	\$ 427.86	EFT –
IRS – 941 Payment	\$ 696.16	EFT
IDALS- 780 Hr. – Jim	<u>\$1,308.48</u>	Chk#2597 – Qtr. January thru March

Total \$4,387.34

Bills for May 2021

Revolving Account – NSB (Northern Security Bank)

Fusion Forward	\$303.75	Chk#4593	last ½ of Website it is done
John Deere Financial	\$23.94	Chk#4594	Garbage Bags for Tree Sale
Schumacher’s Nursery	\$5,773.00	Chk#4595	Trees
Buchanan SWCD	<u>\$55.08</u>	Chk#4596	Reimburse Veridian it was for payroll
Total	\$6,155.77		

Employee Acct. – Veridian

Cabalka, Griffin	\$977.42	Chk#2598	Pay Period 8
IRS – 941 Pymnt May 17th	\$696.16	EFT	
IPERS – May 17 th	\$427.86	EFT	Payment for April Wages
Cabalka, Griffin	<u>\$977.42</u>	Chk#2599	Pay Period 9
Total	\$3,078.86		

21-69 Motion by Muchmore to approve the April and May 2021 bills. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

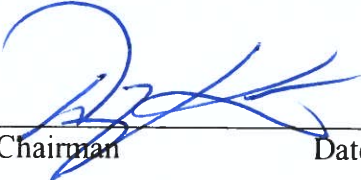
Other Items:

Griffin Cabalka, presented to the commissioners on what he wanted to create to display at the fair and to also do outreach for classrooms. He explained to the commissioners that he wants to build a display for cover crops.

21-70 Motion by Muchmore to give Griffin a \$100.00 budget for his project. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried

Adjourned @ 11:58 a.m.

21-71 Motion by Muchmore to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.



 Chairman Date 6/22/2021



 Secretary Date 6/22/21