

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, June 22, 2021
10:00 a.m.**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Becky Lindsay
Bob Muchmore
Sean Dolan
Tim Halligan

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Larry Jones – Acting DC/Tama County
John Bruene

The meeting was called to order by Lindsay at 10:06 a.m.

Adopt Agenda

Lindsay called to adopt the agenda.

21-72 Motion by Muchmore to approve the agenda. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Lindsay called for a discussion and approval of the minutes from the May 25, 2021 meeting.

21-73 Motion by Dolan to approve the minutes with the correction of the second on the approval of the March 23, 2021 Minutes by Dolan not Halligan. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

21-74 Motion by Dolan to approve the May 2021 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Need to get our regular Statement from Veridian, we are not receiving it in the mail. Althaus reported that she is working with Jaycee at Veridian to get a mailed copy of the statement. Jaycee is supposed to be letting Althaus know by the end of the week.

It was also stated that Tim Halligan, needs to get the code so he can talk to the girls with any questions that he may have regarding the District's accounts, since he is treasurer.

Wapsi River Management Authority – Tori Nimrod

Nothing to Report currently

Middle Cedar River Watershed –

Althaus reported that she received an email from Adam, that there will be a meeting July 8, 2021 from 3:00 – 5:00 p.m. Adam has taken a new position that is closer to home, and that will be effective July 2, 2021.

Pheasants Forever Report – Nothing to report currently.

District Conservationist Report –Larry Jones-Acting DC

- EQIP – We had approvals for the 2nd round of EQIP, there was like 3 additional approvals.
- CSP – We had additional CSP Contracts approved.
- CRP – Larry brought to the commissioners’ attention that the process, rental rates have been adjusted. Mary is working diligently to get as much done as possible. She will be out on leave for 6 to 8 weeks. Missy, CED, will be filling in for her.
- Staff – Jim is done for right now; he is out of hours. Our new DC is Bill Meyer, and he gave an overview of Bill. He will be starting on July 6th. Larry also stated out of 17 DC positions, Buchanan was the only one that was filled.
- COVID 19 Update – We are still at 50%

Tree Sale Report

Althaus stated that she has 3 more to get paid, it isn’t the end of the week yet so there will be more. She will have the final report completed for the July meeting. She also, will be getting trees ordered in July.

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

- A. Bylaw Change Letter
- B. Proposed Changes for 2021

Dolan went over the resolutions for CDI as follows:

1. Include High Tunnel Systems in the List of IFIP Eligible Cos Share Practices – Majority Supported It
2. Include Stream Crossing in the List of IFIP Eligible Cost Share Practices – Commissioners were opposed to this one.
3. Fund Three Consecutive Years of Cover Crops through Water Quality Initiative (WQI) Funds – Discussed and majority stated it would be up to the individuals, to decide that, since most of Buchanan County participates again. Majority of the commissioners opposed this.
4. Modernizing the Approach to Managing Soil Health and Soil Loss – Commissioners concerns were how would there be enough commissioners with this knowledge. They opposed this one.
5. Allow Location Flexibility for Multi – year State Cost Shared Cover Crops – We work with our landowners on this currently. Commissioners opposed to accepting this as a resolution, when we are currently working with landowners on this.
6. Supporting Farmer-led Conservation in Clean Energy Policy – Commissioners conclusion, is no need to make as a resolution.

By-Laws, the commissioners approved the updated by-laws.

Recognition for Phil Short

Okoboji is currently closed, Althaus will reach out to Jan for 3 different dates that will work out for them, and we will figure out a location that will work for this.

WQI Cover Crops/No-Till/Strip-Till

Althaus stated that they are taking applications currently for these programs, and if they know anyone that is interested to have them contact her. These applications will be for FY22.

780 Hr. Position –

Althaus made the commissioners aware, that the paperwork is completed and has been to the state office.

Conservation Plans – 29

Cost Share Approval – Nothing at this time

Completed Cost Share- Nothing that this time

Bills for June 2021

Revolving Account – NSB (Northern Security Bank

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|-----------------------------------|
| NE IA RC & D | \$600.00 | Chk#4597 | FY 2022 UMR Watershed Partnership |
| Total | \$600.00 | | |

Employee Acct. – Veridian

| | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------|----------|-----------------------|
| Cabalka, Griffin | \$977.42 | Chk#2600 | Pay Period 10 |
| IRS – 941 Pymnt June 15th | \$696.16 | EFT | |
| IPERS – June 15 th | \$427.86 | EFT | Payment for May Wages |
| Cabalka, Griffin | \$977.42 | Chk#2601 | Pay Period 11 |
| Total | \$3,078.86 | | |

3rd Qtr. 1M Reimbursement

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----------|
| Becky Lindsay | 37.44 | Chk#4598 |
| Doug Kaiser | 42.12 | Chk#4599 |
| Robert Muchmore | 130.26 | Chk#4600 |
| Tim Halligan | 42.12 | Chk#4601 |
| Sean Dolan | <u>28.16</u> | Chk#4602 |
| Total | \$280.10 | |

Office Expense – postage, Dues, & Meetings \$1,214.00

3rd Qtr. Total \$1,494.10

21-75 Motion by Halligan to approve Conservation Plans, Bills for June 2021, and 3rd Qtr. 1M Reimbursement. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Other Items:

John Bruene/Team Lead gave some back ground information regarding himself and his position. He stated that they are still figuring out how to get the flow of things. He stated that we have 2 Resource Conservationist – Tessa Roth and Tina Cibula. There is 5 Soil Conservationist; there is 1 new Technician and our current Technician – Gary Paulsen; Farm Bill Specialist – Amber. He stated that the quad is really struggling in the

engineering area. The needs are demanding, we are short. Hopefully, back with a technician or 2. We do get help from the Area Office when comes to engineering.

He gave very positive feedback on our new District Conservationist, he stated that he has a great personality.

Adjourned @ 11:08 a.m.

21-76 Motion by Muchmore to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Becky Lindsay 8/31/21
Chairman Date

Julie Adams 9-3-21
Secretary Date