

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, June 23, 2020**

**At
Open Air Pavilion @ the Buchanan County Fair Grounds/ VIA Conference Call
7:30 a.m.**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Doug Kaiser
Tim Halligan
Becky Lindsay
Bob Muchmore
Phil Short

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Dave Mack, District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order by Kaiser at 7:35 a.m.

Adopt Agenda

Kaiser called to adopt the agenda. Althaus added 3 additional items – WQI; Recall of Funds; and 780 Hr. Position.

20-75 Motion by Muchmore to approve the agenda with additions. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Kaiser called for a discussion and approval of the minutes from the May 26, 2020 meeting.

20-76 Motion by Lindsay to approve the minutes from the May 26, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report for May 30, 2020 – Report was given.

20-77 Motion by Lindsay approve the May 30, 2020 Treasurer's Report. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Update on Standardized Treasurer's Report – Althaus explained that she is working with Dan Hawkins from DSCWQ to make sure that things are going like planned. They are both working on it together.

Wapsi River Management Authority -

Dave Mack explained to the commissioners that they sent a project to Tori and Ross. It was Travis and Lisa Mestad, they have a huge gully. They originally signed up for state cost share. Jeff Lutz and Lissa Tschirgi started working on this project. So they sent the engineering notes on to the WMA's engineers. Where the Mestad's would receive 90% cost share, they are looking at over \$50,000.00 project, due to the soils. Althaus reached out to Tori and Ross, with a question from a landowner on when the bid processes, will open up for the contractors to put a bid in. They stated that they are hoping for July 1st to start the bidding process.

Middle Cedar River Watershed – Adam not available

Kaiser stated that his meeting was postponed to the end of August.

Pheasants Forever Report - Rath not available

District Conservationist Report –Dave Mack

- Update on Staff Situation –

Tyler's last week is this week, his last day is on the 26th. Will be having a lunch for him on the Thursday, June 25th.

Evan Ronnebaum started yesterday, Monday, June 22nd. He is a soil conservationist and will be working in the Independence FO. He is originally from Edgewood and still is up there and he will be driving back and forth.

Nicole Jones, starting in Vinton as a Soil Technician and Briana Ewold, starting in Vinton as a Soil Conservationist. The Vinton Team is still looking for a Resource Conservationist.

- CSP –
Deadline is next Thursday, July 2nd. A couple have cancelled. We have some that are interested in the Monarch Habitat and there is a couple that are interested in cover crops. Some have been shifted to EQIP.
- EQIP-
Dave Mack gave a general scenario of the EQIP program. It based on a list of practices. Majority of them are 3 to 5 years long. This is consecutive years. It is used to be that each county got a certain amount of money, now it is the team, which consists of the 4 counties. It is all done locally, based on watershed, and Buchanan has the whole county covered.
- COVID-19 (Office) –
We are currently in Phase 1, so all of FSA is back. Working on Phase 2 by the end of the week. Did discover some software to do some e-signing.
- Cost Share –
It was discussed at the last commissioners meeting of the possibility of raising the cap on cost – share to \$10,000.00. Althaus gave some scenarios, of where it would have come into play on some projects. After discussion, with the costs increasing, it may not be a bad idea to do.
20-78 Motion by Lindsay to raise the cost-share maximum to \$10,000.00. Seconded by Short. Motion carried.

2020 NACD Technical Assistance Grant

We have passed the first step of being selected, so we are in the second step of being considered and our application is being evaluated! So positive, we are in the door! Althaus stated that she is excited that we have made it this far.

Tree Sale

Althaus handed out a rough draft of the final report. There is still an invoice out. All bills will have been paid as of today. The commissioners asked Althaus to turn in her mileage, so she could be reimbursed for it, by the next meeting.

Pheasants Forever FY21 Contribution (open for discussion) –

We received a request from Jaimie Cook of Pheasants Forever for a donation. The commissioners wanted me to check with Greg Schmitt on how much the Buchanan County Pheasants contribute.

Donation to Free Conference Call.com

This was discussed.

20-79 Motion by Muchmore to not contribute since it states Free Conference Call. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

2020 CDI Resolutions

Commissioners went through the resolutions and placed their votes. Althaus will get them sent in.

Website

Website was done in 2009, it is outdated.

Options are the following:

- a. If it is decided to keep this one, it only edits, create a section for the commissioners' minutes: Upper Wapsi minutes – 4 to 5 hours – Cost \$320.00 - \$400.00
- b. Do a simple redesign and Update of the website, make it so it can handle links properly and a photo gallery. Access to Google Locator – 6 to 7 hours – Cost \$480.00 - \$560.00

20-80 Motion by Lindsay to do a simple redesign and update of the website, \$480.00 - \$560.00. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

75th Anniversary for the Buchanan SWCD

Next February 2021 will be the 75th Anniversary for the Buchanan SWCD, needing some ideas.

- Update Logo – get a bid
- Promote, Promote
- Getting other ideas from other districts
- Input from the commissioners

It was also discussed about possibly recognizing past commissioners. Commissioners are going to work on getting other ideas, too.

Unfunded Cooperative Agreement (for the rest of 2020)

The commissioners discussed this and it is an agreement for the partners for the rest of 2020. It is explaining what NRCS provides the IDALS employees and SWCD employees.

Update District Policy – Cost Share Pasture & Hay land Planting

There was discussion on this and at this time the commissioners are not going to open up this option at this time.

20-81 Motion by Muchmore to not go with this cost share project at this time. Seconded by Short. Motion carried.

Water Quality Initiative – Planting Deadline

Currently our deadline to get cover crops planted in Buchanan County’s zone is October 28th. We did receive notice that we could extend the completion date to December 31st. The commissioners discussed it and it is was decided to keep October 31st as of right now.

780 Hr. Position

The district received the paperwork for the 780 Hr. Position, and Althaus brought it to the commissioners’ attention that the guidelines would be the same as last year. That we would apply for these dollars for Jim. **20-82 Motion** by Muchmore to continue forward with the paperwork for the 780 Hr. Position. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Cost Share Balances

The commissioners were made of aware of the balances that would be getting pulled by on July 1, 2020.

Conservation Plans – 73

Cost Share Approval – Nothing currently

Completed Cost Share –

Nathan B. Kukson	Windbreak	REAP- P	Total Expenses \$1,179.94	CS Amt. \$884.95
Bowden Investments	Waterway	IFIP	Total Expenses \$4,249.40	CS Amt. \$2,124.70
Alan Wulfekuhle	Waterway	IFIP	Total Expenses \$4,065.00	CS Amt. \$2,032.50

Bills for June 2020

<u>Revolving Account</u> – NSB (Northeast Security Bank)				
Schumacher’s Nursery		\$ 225.72	Chk# 4524 – Trees	6.23.20
John Deere Financial		\$ 32.91	Chk#4525 – Tree Exp.	6.23.20
		\$ 258.63		

20-83 Motion by Lindsay to approve the Conservation Plans, Completed Cost Share, and Bills for June. *Seconded by Phil. Motion carried.*

Other Items –

Next Meeting will be on July 28th at 7:30 a.m. at USDA office or via teleconference, pending on COVID guidelines.

Adjourned @ 9:52 a.m.

20-84 Motion by Lindsay to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Short. Motion carried.

Phil Short 7-28-20
Chairman Date

Julie A. Althaus 7-28-20
Secretary Date