

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, September 22, 2020
7:30 a.m.**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Doug Kaiser
Tim Halligan
Bob Muchmore
Becky Lindsay
Phil Short

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Dave Mack, District Conservationist
Tori Nimrod, NE IA RC &D – Upper Wapsi Management Authority
Ross Evelsizer, NE IA RC & D – Upper Wapsi Management Authority

The meeting was called to order by Kaiser at 7:37 a.m.

Adopt Agenda

Kaiser called to adopt the agenda. Althaus added Christmas Greens Fundraiser

21-16 Motion by Short to approve the agenda with the addition of Christmas Greens Fundraiser. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Kaiser called for a discussion and approval of the minutes from the August 25, 2020 meeting.

21-17 Motion by Lindsay to approve the minutes from the August 25, 2020 meeting. Seconded by Short. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

Muchmore asked why the starting balance was not matching the check register, Althaus stated that she was sure because it was the beginning balance of FY20, and lines were hidden due to the start of FY21, hence that would show the difference in the check register. She would double check it, and email information out to the commissioners.

Second statements were discussed, and Lindsay stated that she gets the ones from NSB, but not from Veridian. After discussion, it was decided upon to have a copy mailed out to her.

21-18 Motion by Lindsay to approve the August 31, 2020 Treasurer's Report with double checking the check register beginning balance with both institutions. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Wapsi River Management Authority – Tori Nimrod and Ross Evelsizer

Evelsizer explained that they had been doing water sampling, when this project started originally. And they have utilized Coe College to do the water sampling for this project, because it is such a savings. In 2018, there were no water samples done, in 2019 the board wanted to get this done. We had the transition of Angie Auel taking a new position and we did have individuals doing water sampling, but somehow there was miscommunication for sponsorship for the fee to Coe College. So, the bill for 2019 was \$504.00. For 2020 we are looking at approximately \$576.00. With that being said, Tori reached out to Dan Cohen of Buchanan County Conservation to assist with the bills for 2019 and 2020, he stated that they would pay for 1/2. For the years of 2016 and 2017 the Buchanan SWCD paid for them.

Our goal for the water samples is to show the impact before and after, and with the water sampling, it also helps in applying for future grants.

It was asked, if the commissioners would be willing to pay \$252.00 towards the 2019 bill.

21-19 Motion by Short to pay \$252.00 for the 2019 water sampling. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

They will have Coe College invoice us for this amount.

Nimrod and Evelsizer also, went through project sheet with them. It was asked about the on-road projects, it was stated since they are working with the county, that there would be no expense to the landowner. They have most of all the money spent on projects, and they all need to be completed by December 31, 2021.

Middle Cedar River Watershed – Nothing currently

Pheasants Forever Report – Nothing currently

District Conservationist Report –Dave Mack

- **CRP-**
It is pretty much wrapped up. Will need a few more signatures. We have one SHPP and that is for 2 or 3 years. We are starting to work on 2021 re-enrollments.
- **CSP –**
We are gearing up for CSP payments, which that will start on October 1, 2020.
- **COVID-19 (Office) –**
We are still at Phase 2 – by appt. only.
- **Staffing Updates**
We have a new State Conservationist, his name is John Hubbert. He has been with NRCS for quite some time. Also, on a side note, Greg Schmitt had a field day at his place, and it was very interesting with all his different practices that he has implemented.

2020 NACD Technical Assistance Grant

Althaus brought the commissioners up to date on what has been accomplished so far, job posting has been placed in the Buchanan County Economic Development site, and Hawkeye Community College site. Althaus asked about placing an advertisement in the paper with our link.

21-20 Motion by Lindsay to approve of putting in an advertisement in the paper. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Also, Kaiser asked if Althaus would email out the job description to all the commissioners, this way they know of someone that may be interested in the position.

Logo

Althaus asked the commissioners if they had a chance to look at the Anniversary logo, because she had only heard from 2 commissioners. The logo was shared, and it was decided to go with Option 2 for the Anniversary Logo.

Purchase of Book – “How Hugh Bennett Saved America’s Soil and Ended the Dust Bowl- EROSION for the classrooms.

It was discussed that we have 7 schools that provide education to Buchanan County students and if we did 2 books per school, we would have 14. One of the commissioners asked about the Public Library’s. There was a tally done and we have 5. The cost per book is \$9.99. This is a great Outreach Opportunity for the commissioners.

21-21 – Motion by Lindsay to purchase the books for the schools and the public libraries. Seconded by Short. Motion carried.

Conservation Plans- 35

Cost Share Approval –

Larry Rasmussen Amendment- Cost Share for Grade Stabilization – Additional Funds

Currently at \$6,116.00 in Cost Share Need to increase it by \$3,884.00 to equal \$10,000.00

21-22 Motion by Short increase the cost share amount to equal a value of \$10,000.00. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Completed Cost Share –

Stavens, Aaron Windbreak CS Amt. \$1,600.00

Bills for September 2020

Revolving Account – NSB (Northeast Security Bank)

Fusion Forward	\$19.99	Chk# 4534 – Domain Renewal	09/22/20
C23 Graphic Design	\$125.00	Chk#4535 – New LOGO	09/22/20
Fusion Forward	<u>\$199.99</u>	Chk#4536 – Hosting the Website	09/22/20
Total	\$344.98		

21-23 Motion by Muchmore to approve the CRP plans, Completed Cost Share, and Bills for September 2020. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Other Items:

Christmas Greens – Althaus asked about the possibility of selling Christmas Greens for a fundraiser. It was discussed amongst the commissioners and Althaus, and the decision was made that if Althaus wanted to pursue this and do it, that could.

Evelsizer brought up that he is currently working on research of Multi Cropping. He explained to the commissioners that if anyone was interested in information regarding Multi-Cropping, he would be glad to assist.

Next Meeting will be on October 26 at 7:30 a.m. at USDA office or via teleconference, pending on COVID guidelines.

Adjourned @ 8:35 a.m.

21-24 Motion by Lindsay to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Phil Shoo acting comm, Julie Brennan
Chairman Date 11/30/2020 Secretary Date 11/30/20