

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, January 25, 2022
10:00 a.m. at the Independence Library**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Doug Kaiser
Bob Muchmore
Sean Dolan

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Bill Meyer, District Conservationist
Mary Beth Stevenson, City of Cedar Rapids
Clark Porter, Environmental Specialist, Black Hawk NRCS FO

The meeting was called to order by Kaiser at 10:01 a.m.

Adopt Agenda

Kaiser called to adopt the agenda.

22-38 Motion by Dolan to approve the agenda. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Kaiser called for a discussion and approval of the minutes from the December 28, 2021 meeting.

It was noted that there was an error under the Treasurer's Report, we had Lindsay make both motions, it will be corrected to Muchmore.

22-39 Motion by Dolan to approve the amended minutes of December 28, 2021. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

22-40 Motion by Muchmore to approve the December 2021. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Wapsi River Management Authority – Tori Nimrod

Nothing to Report – reminded the commissioners of the up coming meeting on February 8th -

Upper Wapsi WMS meeting on their calendars for February 8, 2022, at Twin Ponds Nature Center. The Nature Center is located southwest of New Hampton, 1811 240th St., Iona, IA 50645. There will also be a zoom option.

Dolan asked about getting a time, he was thinking about going. Althaus stated that she would get that to him.

Middle Cedar River Watershed –

Clark Porter, Environmental Specialist, Black Hawk NRCS FO and Mary Beth Stevenson, City of Cedar Rapids, presented a Batch and Build Project based on Saturated Buffers although the alternative is to be a Bio Reactor in this watershed. Clark is working with Mary Beth, to get these projects on the ground. The Middle Cedar Batch & Build Project will be covering 100% of the cost of the project with additional \$1,000.00 for an easement factor. It is pretty much streamlined but still adhere to NRCS standards.

There will be a 3rd Party Fiscal Agent that will be working with IDALS. The 3rd Party Agent will be the City of Cedar Rapids. Contractors will get a bid packet.

Mary Beth Stevenson gave an overview on reducing nitrates and provide support. She went over the 28e Agreement with the commissioners. This would go from March 1 through December of 2024. Their goal is to keep it growing. Currently working on laying out all the responsibility. The funds will be coming from IDALS. The reason for the approval of the 28E Agreement, is because they would like to have the commissioners handle the maintenance agreements. Althaus asked if it is mandatory for the agreement to be recorded, because currently the Buchanan County SWCD does not record their maintenance agreements and not all SWCD's record their maintenance agreements. If this maintenance agreement needs to follow the land if sold to someone else, then it needs to be recorded.

This will be a 10 Year Maintenance Agreement for the landowner that receives funds for the project.

22-41 Motion by Dolan to approve the Middle Cedar River Watershed 28E agreement with the stipulation that all maintenance agreements will be recorded for completed projects in this watershed. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried.

Pheasants Forever Report – Allie Rath

Quarterly Report was sent out to everyone. Althaus wanted to make sure that the commissioners received it from Allie, and they did.

District Conservationist Report –Bill Meyer – DC

Althaus briefly gave report.

- CRP – on going – General CRP will be announced by the end of February. Status checks looking at every 4 years. There is a new process, and it is deemed Green, Yellow, and Red.
- EQIP – Currently assessing and ranking being done. It all must be completed by January 28th.
- CSP – CSP Classic and currently only 2 renewals
- Field Visits – Certifying Practices
- CART – It tracks everything on the land, if something has been done 2 times, that is how they are going to determine funding from other practices.
- New Programs from Doug – need to be checked into. Each state can pick the practices the initiative program. Create between CSP & EQIP. CSP requires 1 and EQIP requires 3.
- We are currently at 25% staffing, and we can't let anyone in the office, they can come into the entry way and it can only be one at a time.

Refrigerator - Purchased 18 cu ft. – Cy & Charley's

NACD Grant Position –

- a. Spoke with Jim about possibly stepping into the 2021 Grant, Althaus reported that he is not interested in doing that at this time.
- b. TA2021 – this position can do additional Outreach, Soil testing, and other duties as assigned.

22-42 Motion by Muchmore to move forward and start advertising for this position.

Conservation Plans – 11

Cost Share Approval –
Nothing Currently

Completed Cost Share –
Nothing Currently

Bills for January 2022

Revolving Account – NSB (Northern Security Bank)

Buchanan County Auditor	1/25/22	\$168.00	Chk#4629	Plat Books
FY22 2 nd Qtr. Commissioner Expenses				
Becky Lindsay	1/25/22	\$ 37.44	Chk#4630	Mileage
Doug Kaiser	1/25/22	\$ 52.65	Chk#4631	Mileage
Robert Muchmore	1/25/22	\$ 21.84	Chk#4632	Mileage
Sean Dolan	1/25/22	\$ 28.08	Chk#4633	Mileage
Tim Halligan	1/25/22	\$ 42.12	Chk#4634	Mileage
NACD	1/25/22	<u>\$775.00</u>	Chk#4635	Dues
		Total		\$1,125.13

Employee Acct. – Veridian

IDALS / FY22 2 nd Qtr.	<u>\$1,756.34</u>	Chk#2618	780 Hr.
	Total		\$1,756.34

22-43 Motion by Dolan to approve the Conservation plans and the bills for the month of January 22. Seconded by Muchmore. Motion carried

Other Items: Reminder that the Spring Regional will be on March 15 in Waverly.

Regular Commissioner’s Meeting – **February 22, 2022, time and location to be determined**

22-44 Motion by Muchmore to adjourn. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried

Adjourned @ 11:35 a.m.

Chairman

Date

Secretary

Date