

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Thursday, November 23, 2021
10:00 a.m. at the Independence Library**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Doug Kaiser
Becky Lindsay
Tim Halligan
Sean Dolan

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Tori Nimrod, Upper Wapsi Pinicon Watershed
Allie Rath, Pheasants Forever

The meeting was called to order by Kaiser at 9:59 a.m.

Adopt Agenda

Kaiser called to adopt the agenda.

22-23 Motion by Dolan to approve the agenda with the addition of adding 4 rolls of stamps to the bills.
Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Kaiser called for a discussion and approval of the minutes from the October 22, 2021 meeting.

22-24 Motion by Lindsay to approve the minutes of October 22, 2021. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

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

22-25 Motion by Dolan to approve the October 2021. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Also, Althaus brought the commissioners up to speed on the current interest rates at WCF Financial for CD's.

Wapsi River Management Authority – Tori Nimrod

Nimrod went over her Project Worksheet with the commissioners, all projects are done, except for Cedar Rock, and that has been extended to May.

Looking at a possible bus tour in the spring of all the projects. So far, the ones that have gotten their projects completed have been very pleased.

Update on the board, Don Shonka has stepped down as the chair, John Kurtz is the new chair of the Upper Wapsi Management Authority.

Middle Cedar River Watershed –

Nothing to report

Pheasants Forever Report – Allie Rath

Rath went over her Quarterly Report, which was emailed out to everyone. She also went over her CRP, EQIP, and Wildlife projects that she is working on.

She thanked the commissioners for their commitment to the Pheasants Forever Program.

For 2022 there is new opportunities as follows:

SAFE Gaining Ground – Anyone can come in and check it out to see if they are eligible. “There is no public hunting with CRP”. There is a program through the DNR to use on top of CRP. IHAP (Iowa Habitat and Access Program) which can help assist with big tree problems, or weeds. And people can hunt that property if there is assistance. The liability lies on the state and not the landowner. The areas will be patrolled by officers.

Question was asked are the rates changing with CRP? Rath reported that the rates went up last year, but they could change again. No one really knows until they let us know.

Question was asked of the possibility of assisting with workshops to help educate people on conservation practices? Rath stated that is a possibility. She stated that she would be more than glad to help in that area.

District Conservationist Report –Bill Meyer – DC - Absent

Althaus briefly gave report.

- CRP – Evan Ronnebaum and Griffin Cabalka have been checking CRP for re-enrollments for 2022.
- EQIP –
- CSP – We had 5 renewals
- Field Visits – He is frustrated because of the amount of paperwork and last-minute changes, so he is not getting to the field like he wants to.

Tree Sale Update – Althaus

Trees have been ordered from Alpha Nursery out of Michigan and Schumacher Nursery. We had to go to another nursery to get what we needed.

Althaus asked about a discount after a certain number of trees purchased, the commissioners decided not to do any discounts. This will be placed in the district policy document.

NACD Grant Position –

There will be a decision at the December meeting.

780 Hr. Position –

Things are going well, he is also helping Bill Meyer, DC out with CRP. He is also working on all the WQI Cover Crop paperwork and checking paperwork.

Conservation Plans – 5

Cost Share Approval –

Vandelaar, Ty Windbreak Cost Est. \$1,037.50 Cost Share Amt. \$778.12

Completed Cost Share –
None currently

Bills for November 2021

Revolving Account – NSB (Northern Security Bank)

*IDALS - Entomology	\$25.00	Chk#4625	Tree Sale Dealer Certificate	pd 10/29/21
Bulletin Journal	<u>\$92.99</u>	Chk#4626	Renewal of Subscription	
Total	\$117.99			

Last minute Addition of 4 Rolls of stamps at \$220.00 ChK#4627

Employee Acct. – Veridian

IRS – 941 Payment 11/15/21	\$590.38	EFT	Payroll Taxes for Oct. Wages
IPERS – 11/15/21	\$342.28	EFT	Payment for Oct. Wages
Jacobs, Deb	<u>\$231.25</u>	Chk#2617	Professional Serv.- 4/1/20 thru 10/25/21
Total	\$1,163.91		

22-26 Motion by Lindsay to approve the Conservation Plans, Cost Share Approval, and Bills for November 2021. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Other Items: Reviewed 5 yr. plan – looking at doing an awards/educational event – possibly Allie could assist with. Possibly in February and March. Also, we need to look at doing a field tour this summer.

Regular Commissioner’s Meeting – **December 28, 2021 – chk on the library at 10:00 a.m.**

Adjourned @ 11:10 a.m.

22-27 Motion by Lindsay to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Chairman

Date

Secretary

Date