

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, September 26, 2023
10:00 a.m. at the Independence Field Office**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Sean Dolan
Becky Lindsay
Dale Priebe
Tim Halligan*
Doug Kaiser*

*Absent from Meeting

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant

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

Adopt Agenda

Dolan called to adopt the agenda as amended with adding the supervisor's letter.

24-15 Motion by Lindsay to approve the amended agenda. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

Approval of Meeting Minutes August 22, 2023

Dolan called for a discussion and approval of the meeting minutes from August 22, 2023, meeting.

24-16 Motion by Lindsay to approve the regular meeting minutes from August 22, 2023, meeting. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

Guests – Iowa House State Representative Chad Ingels

Dolan introduced Chad to the commissioners, Ingels explained what committees he is on in Des Moines, and how they work. He asked if there were any questions that anyone may have, it asked about getting the wages increased for State Employees, when they start with the state and want to continue with the state, but when the private sector is offering more money for those that have the experience or just starting out, it is tough to get good employees. Dolan asked what it was going to take to get State Technicians back into our local office, so that we can get conservation on the ground in a timely manner. It has been a struggle for sure, it has gotten better, on the hand we could get more conservation on the ground.

There was good discussion for sure, Ingels stated that he would be doing some checking into the concerns.

Treasurer's Report & Financials

Commissioners Audit for FY2023

Dolan and Priebe did the commissioners audit for FY2023, in working with Julie, they found the \$69.00 that we were off. Their recommendation was to go back to the other TR's and get them corrected, so that they are accurate and consistent. They also recommended that it is key that the individual that receives the extra statement, needs to understand the importance of their role.

Althaus stated that she spoke with Bobby Kuennen, Field Representative, asking if it would be ok to go back and get the TR's corrected the way that they are supposed to be. She explained to Bobby, why the

commissioners wanted to do this. He stated that he did not have a problem with that, just need to make sure that they get into the state office in a timely manner.

Althaus had them read the explanation in the TR for August, to see if there was any additions or corrections. She also presented the bills for the Month of September.

24 -17 Motion by Priebe to move forward with the cleanup Treasurer Reports. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

24-18 Motion by Lindsay to approve the bills. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

The CD has been renewed for 5 months on 9/8/2023 in the amount of \$82, 623.61 this is at 5%, it will come up for renewal on 2/8/2024.

It was also discussed, that when they went to renew the CD, the financial institute was requesting all 3 signatories for the account. They were told that they could just use 2 if they brought the copy of the minutes in with that motion.

24-19 Motion by Lindsay to have only 2 of the 3 signatories sign financial documents. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

Pheasants Forever Report – Allie (absent)

FARMS Ledger Remain Balance as of September 25, 2023 – IFIP \$12,528.35/REAP F/NG \$2,590.53/ REAP P \$8,614.78

FARMS Buffer Initiative – Approve Applications

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
112084	Dottieland	Buffer Init.	CP21	\$360.00	\$360.00	Approve
113029	Kaiser, Doug	Buffer Init	CP21	\$872.00	\$872.00	Approve

111612	Manternach, Jeff	Buffer Init.	CP21	\$548.00	\$548.00	Approve
112366	Larry & Pamela Murley Jt. Venture	Buffer Init.	CP21	\$1,038.00	\$1,038.00	Approve
112360	Murley Partners	Buffer Init	CP21	\$4,082.00	\$4,082.00	Approve
113059	Simmons, Gregory	Buffer Init	CP42	\$169.50	\$169.50	Approve

FARMS WQI (Water Quality Initiative) Approved Applications

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Cost Share Amt	Action
113164	Bevans, Shane	WQI	Cover Crops	\$4,000.00	Approve
113014	Dolan, Sean	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,400.00	Approve
112765	Gallery, Michael P.	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,400.00	Approve
112304	Kaiser, Doug	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,400.00	Approve
112431	Michels, Benji	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,119.50	Approve
112393	Miller Menargie Ranch	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,050.65	Approve

112328	Noe, Derek	WQI	Cover Crops	\$372.90	Approve
112413	Sweeney, James	WQI	Cover Crops	\$3,744.00	Approve

FARMS – SF512- Middle Cedar HUC 8 Project

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Cost Share Amt	Action
113168	Gosse, Luke	HUC 8	Cover Crops	\$8,796.00	Approve
112506	Lehman, Randy	HUC 8	Cover Crops	\$1,250.00	Approve
111839	Miller Menargie	HUC 8	Cover Crops	\$16,544.00	Approve
111650	Halligan, Timothy	HUC 8	Cover Crops	\$2,904.50	Approve

FARMS Completed Cost Share Projects & Maintenance Agreements

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Cost Share Amt	Action
112084	Dottieland	Buffer Init.	CP21	\$360.00	Approve
113029	Kaiser, Doug	Buffer Init	CP21	\$872.00	Approve
111612	Manternach, Jeff	Buffer Init	CP21	\$548.00	Approve
112366	Larry Pamela Murley Jt. Venture	Buffer Init	CP21	\$1,038.00	Approve
112360	Murley Partners	Buffer Init	CP21	\$4,082.00	Approve
113059	Simmons, Greg	Buffer Init	CP21	\$169.50	Approve
113164	Bevans, Shane	WQI	Cover Crops	\$4,000.00	Approve
113014	Dolan, Sean	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,400.00	Approve
112765	Gallery, Mike	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,400.00	Approve
112304	Kaiser, Doug	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,400.00	Approve
112431	Michels, Benji	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,400.00	Approve
112393	Miller Menargie	WQI	Cover Crops	\$2,050.00	Approve
112328	Noe, Derek	WQI	Cover Crops	\$392.90	Approve
112413	Sweeney, James	WQI	Cover Crops	\$3,744.00	Approve
113168	Gosse, Luke	HUC8	Cover Crops	\$8,796.00	Approve
112506	Lehman, Randy	HUC8	Cover Crops	\$1,250.00	Approve
111839	Miller Menargie	HUC8	Cover Crops	\$16,544.00	Approve
111650	Halligan, Tim	HUC8	Cover Crops	\$2,904.50	Approve

24-20 Motion by Lindsay to approve FARMS Applications for Buffer Initiative; WQI – Water Quality Initiative; SF512-Middle Cedar HUC 8 Projects; FARMS Completed Cost Share. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

District Conservationist Report – Althaus / Ronnebaum on leave & Tessa Roth

- NRCS Updates – working on CSP and EQIP – November 3rd is the deadline for sign up.
- CRP is done, next will be status reviews.
- Evan will be returning from leave, on Monday, October 2nd. Nothing has been officially announced, but it looks like his start date will be October 9, 2023.

Watershed Reports

- Middle Cedar/SF512 Middle Cedar HUC 8 Project – We have had some participation for this project, so that is exciting.
- Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority – Nothing to Report at this time.
- Upper Wapsi Watershed – Meeting was on September 12th at Fontana – It was discussed at the meeting on how some of the SWCD's and towns are backing off on their donations. Example the City of Independence was approximately \$6,000.00 now it is down to about \$600.00, and this is concerning.

Conservation Districts of Iowa – Annual Conference 8/28-29/23; Update from Sean

- **Resolutions those that were passed –**
 - Increase on WQI Cover Crop Cost - \$25.00 per for the 1st two years - \$15.00 in year 3.
 - Updated the time frame for Cultural Resources from 50 years to 100 years.
 - Revise CRP Rules
- New President is Jeri Thornsberry; Vice President is Don Elsberg. So the Region 4 Director is Sean Dolan
- New CDI Director is ~~Don~~ Judge

IA Department of Ag and Land Stewardship

- WQI – still taking applications
- SF512- Middle Cedar HUC 8 Project – was discussed concerns on some really big farmers participating which is bringing questions regarding it.

NACD – National Association of Conservation District

- Received a letter that they received the district's payment.
- TA 2021 – Althaus stated that she received an email from Meg Leader and they needed to know right away. Althaus communicated to Meg that we will not be participating, because we have no one to train them.

24-21 Motion by Lindsay to return the grant TA 2021 back to NACD. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

- Althaus is working with Sadi Hawk from IDALS to work out an error that she found. Althaus will tackle that the first of the week.

District Activities

- Update on Linn County – they did do interviews, the ones that they offered it too, turned it down because of pay. IDALS will be readvertising the position.

Conservation Plans – 14

24-22 Motion by Lindsay to approve the Conservation plans. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

Other Items:

- Julie Althaus will be on leave from October 12 thru the 17th.

- Dick Sloan Update on his Wetland, he is hoping that they will be starting construction on it.
- Next Regular Meeting will be held on October 24, at 10:00 a.m. at the Field Office.

24-23 Motion by Priebe to adjourn. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Adjourned @ 11:41 a.m.

Sean D. W.
Chairman

11/28/23
Date

Julie Brennan
Secretary

11/28/23
Date