

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, March 26, 2024
2:00 p.m. at the Independence Field Office**

Those present were:

Commissioners

Sean Dolan
Dale Priebe
Becky Lindsay*
Doug Kaiser
Tim Halligan

*Absent from Meeting

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Evan Ronnebaum, District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order by Dolan at 2:00 p.m.

There were no guests.

Adopt Agenda

Dolan called to adopt the agenda.

24-56 Motion by Kaiser to approve the agenda. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes dated February 27, 2024

Dolan called for a discussion and approval of the regular meeting minutes from February 27, 2024, no discussion.

24-57 Motion by Priebe to approve the Monthly Meeting Minutes from February 27, 2024, meeting. Seconded by Kaiser. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report & Financials –

Treasurer's Report & Financials approval for February 29, 2024. With tabling the donation to Soil and Water Conservation Society of \$115.00, until we get more information on what they do for the district. Althaus and Dolan stated that they would do some research and bring back that information to the next commissioners meeting.

24-58 Motion by Kaiser to approve the February 29, 2024, Financial Report with the exception of paying the SWCS request of \$115.00. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

FARMS Ledger Remain Balance as of March 19, 2024 – IFIP \$25,798.16/REAP F/NG \$2,590.53/ REAP P \$5,414.78

FARMS Cost Share Applications

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action

FARMS Completed Cost Share Projects & Maintenance Agreements

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Cost Share Amt	Action
106593	James-Jerome Koch Rev Trust	IFIP	Grassed Waterway	\$5,000.00	Approve
106594	James Koch	IFIP	Grassed Waterway	\$5,000.00	Approve
97272	Brustkerns Farms LLC	IFIP	Grassed Waterway	\$8,191.15	Approve
104344	Brustkern Farms LLC	IFIP	Grade Stabilization Structure	\$6,000.00	Approve

It was discussed about the possibility of increasing the cost share for application #104344, because of the reason it took so long to get this on the ground. Althaus stated that they had another bill and after meeting with them, she told them that she would talk with the technician, commissioners, and the state office to see if it would even be possible. The commissioners stated that since the cap had been changed to 50% they were in favor if it could be done. It was discussed to table the approval of application #104344, until we get the final number and know if it is possible to change it.

FARMS Cancelled Cost Share Projects & Maintenance Agreements

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Cost Share Amt	Action

FARMS Amendment

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Cost Share Amt	Action
104344	Brustkern Farms LLC	IFIP	Grade Stabilization Structure	COMPLETION DATE TO 12/28/23	APPROVE

24-59 Motion by Kaiser to approve the amendment of the completion date for application # 104344. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

District Conservationist Report – Evan Ronnebaum, District Conservationist

NRCS Updates –

- EQIP – 10 Approved Applications.
- CSP – 3 Approved applications
- There will be a 2nd round of EQIP applications will be ranked by May 31st
- 60 – 75% of the CRP Status Reviews are completed.

The question was brought up about the streambank stabilization applicants, Ronnebaum stated that they have not been picked up yet. The commissioners and Evan discussed about putting a possible tour together so the commissioners can understand more and get a grasp of how important it is. The commissioners thought this would be a great opportunity.

Watershed Reports

- Middle Cedar/SF512 Middle Cedar HUC 8 Project – Nothing to report at this time

- Maquoketa River Watershed Management Authority – Erin Erickson – nothing to report at this time
- Upper Wapsi Watershed –
Priebe attended the meeting he stated that they went over the donations that they had received and of course there are some that are not going to donate.

Went over all of the signs that have been posted in the area for the Upper Wapsi Watershed, their feedback has been good.

Also, went over the possibility of renaming the Upper Wapsi Watershed and the consensus was the amount of money that it would cost to change everything that has Upper Wapsi Watershed on it. As of right now it is staying Upper Wapsi Watershed.

Conservation Districts of Iowa – Report from Sean

- CDI Administrative Support – Sounds like they have a candidate selected for our office.
- Spring Regionals – Region 4- Dolan gave the report and felt it went pretty good. Those that attended were Dolan, Priebe, and Althaus. There was some good information there. 2 Planners -

IA Department of Ag and Land Stewardship

- Award Nominations – Althaus went over a list of awards that are options for some our landowners. She stated that she would send out a definition of the awards.

For the Environmental Leadership Award, it was suggested that the possibility of Ring Neck Properties. Althaus will go through the requirements and keep the commissioners informed.

After discussing and giving the commissioners examples, it was decided to lift the cap.

NACD – National Association of Conservation District

- Nothing at this time.

District Activities

- **2024 Iowa DNR County Creek Sign Grant Program**
We can receive a grant to help install signs for different projects, as of right the commissioners find no need.
- **2024 District Scholarships**
As discussed, the commissioners still plan on doing the scholarships this year with the amount of \$2,100.00 to be split up amongst the participating schools that are providing education to a Buchanan County resident that plans on going into an Ag related industry. Althaus stated that she has heard back from 3 schools already, so she will follow up with the others since the deadline is April 1st.
- **Tree Sale** – Althaus gave an update on the current tree sale. It is some but nothing like the other. Althaus asked if it would be ok, to get it started up again and do a 3-year average of the last 3 tree sales so the commissioners can see the number of trees and the average profit. Then she will place the order for 2025. She wants to commissioners to see the numbers first.

- Update on Newsletter and Annual Report – Althaus will be double checking the Policy and Procedures Manual regarding the Annual Report, since we no longer have the Winthrop News, to go to. It was asked if she could utilize the website, and she stated that she would check into it.
- Althaus also presented them with the Supporter Club Letter, and it was discussed on when she would like to send it out. Julie stated that she would like to send it either before Christmas or the beginning of the year. So, people can see it.

24-60 Motion by Lindsay to purchase 3 – 2023 plat books for the office. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

Conservation Plans – 1 at this mtg for signature

25-61 Motion by Priebe to approve the conservation plans. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Other Items:

- Next Commissioners meeting will be on April 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at the Field Office.

24-62 Motion by Halligan to adjourn. Seconded by Kaiser. Motion carried.

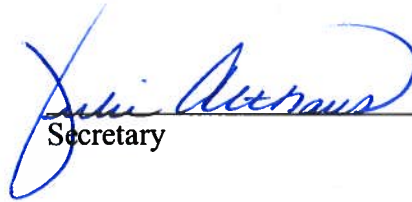
Adjourned @ 3:30 p.m.



Chairman

5-28-24

Date



Secretary

5-28-24

Date