

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING  
INDEPENDENCE, IA  
Tuesday, May 27, 2025  
2:00 p.m. at the Independence Field Office**

Those present were:

**Commissioners**

Sean Dolan, Chair

Tim Halligan \*

Cameron Cocking

Dale Priebe

Becky Lindsay

\*Absent from Meeting

Linda Walthart, Assistant Commissioner

**Staff & Others**

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant

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

**Adopt Agenda**

Dolan called to adopt the agenda.

**25-73 Motion** by Lindsay to approve the agenda. Seconded by Cocking. Motion carried.

**Guests –**

None currently

**Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes dated April 22, 2025**

Dolan called for the approval of April 22, 2025, Monthly Meeting,

**25-74 Motion** by Priebe to approve the monthly meeting minutes of April 22, 2025, Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report & Bills to Be Paid-**

- Bank Statements –Lindsay did not receive the 4/30/25 bank statement. Dolan sent a message to Craig Sperflage at NSB, to ask if Becky got bumped off since they switched over to the new system and to let him know that she needed to be put back on.
  - Review of the Bank Reconciliations for March 30, 2025; April 11, 2025 (System Change); and April 30, 2025, TR's and they also reviewed the bills to be paid.
- 25-75 Motion** by Cocking to approve the corrected March 30, 2025, TR; April 11, 2025, TR and May Bills to be paid. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Renewal of CD on 5/14/25 for 5 months at the interest rate of 4.10%. The amount of the CD is \$82,623.61 that is set up to renew every 5 months. The interest goes into the checking account, this time around there will be \$1,452.00 in interest going into checking.

**FARMS Cost Share Update**

FARMS Ledgers Remaining Balances, as of May 27, 2025 – IFIP \$8,810.16; REAP F/NG \$3,041.81; REAP P \$1,120.22

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
126147	Amy Copenhaver Rev Trust	REAP P	Windbreak		1,120.22	Approve
126147	Amy Copenhaver Rev Trust	REAP F/NG	Windbreak		479.78	Approve

**FARMS Completed Cost Share Projects & Maintenance Agreements**

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
115860	Pamela Sackett	REAP P	Windbreak	\$2,114.88	\$1,118.88	Approve

**25-76 Motion** by Priebe to approve Applications and Completed Cost Share. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

**Pheasants Forever Report**

Allie has been here working on some CRP contracts. She also has been training 2 new workers.

**Conservation Districts of Iowa** – Reviewed the new resolutions that will need to be voted on at our June 17<sup>th</sup> commissioners meeting.

**Watersheds**

A. Middle Cedar –

We received a newsletter the first of April and there was a meeting via Zoom.

B. Maquoketa Watershed –

Nothing to report currently.

C. Upper Wapsi –

There was a meeting on May 1<sup>st</sup> at Fontana. Dolan attended this meeting. There was a representative from the IA Flood Center, it was very interesting with the water testing and information that he shared. There is some water testing still going on.

**Heartland Co-op/Winter** – Althaus asked the commissioners if they have heard anything from anyone regarding this. None of them have, they stated to remove them from the agenda.

## **District Conservationist Report – Evan Ronnebaum, District Conservationist**

### Updates –

Candice Williams returned to the office on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Evan reported that they have a reduction of workforce report to do, and they need to submit #'s every day. Right now, Mary Hansen does the reporting. They need to know how many employees every day are here, to justify office space.

We received a new copier finally.

Evan also made the commissioners aware that Ragbrai will be coming through Buchanan County on the last day on Saturday, July 26, 2025. He has been asked to find a location where there is conservation practices located. He asked them if they could help him in some way. They started brainstorming, and we may have an idea for this. Althaus will not be available for that day.

### **Conservation Districts of Iowa –**

Althaus handed out copies of the resolutions to the commissioners and they are going to vote on them at the June 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

### **IA Department of Ag and Land Stewardship –**

- 780 Hr. Position – Althaus went over the application and asked the commissioners to make a motion to continue with the 780 Hr. Position.

**25-77 Motion by** Priebe to renew our contract for the 780 Hr. Position through IDALS. Seconded by Cocking. Motion carried.

**NACD** – nothing currently

### **District Activities**

- A. Doug Davenport – Retired DC from SW Iowa asked to be put on the agenda for June regarding Prairie Strips and the ISU Strips project. He will be attending the June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.
- B. Tree Sale Update – Althaus is working on the final report for the tree sales, overall, she felt that it went well, considering that we haven't had one in 3 years. She will be emailing the report out to the commissioners as soon as it is complete.
- C. Scholarships for 2025 – Everything went well for everyone that attended the awards ceremonies. Althaus shared a FUN FACT with the commissioners. The Buchanan County Soil and Water Conservation District has given out \$51,990.00 in scholarships since we started this in 2001!

- D. Dolan asked about Doug Kaiser's Appreciation dinner. Althaus stated that she ran into Doug and asked him when he would like to have his celebration, he stated that it would work best on a Friday night. She will check with Doug on dates that he is available and get back to them. Our options are right now Costa's or Denali's.
  
- E. Althaus asked about outreach items, the district has the opportunity to purchase fact books regarding an explanation of pollination, they are for the younger group. It is a coloring book, and they are \$1.80 each. It was discussed and the commissioners would purchase 200 of them. We will be handing them out at the fair also.

**25-78 Motion** by Priebe to purchase 200 outreach books at a \$1.80 each. Seconded by Cocking. Motion carried.

**Conservation Plans –3 Plans to Approve**

**25-79 Motion** by Lindsay to approve the 3 Conservation Plans. Seconded by Cocking. Motion carried.

**Other Items –**

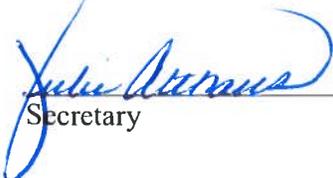
Our next commissioners meeting is scheduled for June 17<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. here at the USDA Office.

Adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

**25-80 Motion** by Priebe to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Cocking. Motion carried.

  
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Chairman

6-17-25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Secretary

6-17-25  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date