

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, August 26, 2025
2:00 p.m. at the Independence Field Office**

Those in attendance were:

Commissioners

Sean Dolan, Chair *
Cameron Cocking
Tim Halligan, Treasurer *
Becky Lindsay
Dale Priebe, Vice Chair
*Absent from Meeting

Linda Walthart, Assistant Commissioner

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Evan Ronnebaum, District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order by Priebe at 2:06 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Priebe called to adopt the agenda.

26-07 Motion by Lindsay to approve the agenda. Seconded by Cocking. Motion carried.

Guests –

None

Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes dated July 22, 2025

Priebe called for the approval of July 22, 2025, Monthly Meeting,

26-08 Motion by Lindsay to approve the monthly meeting minutes of July 22, 2025, Seconded by Cocking. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report & Bills to Be Paid-

- Review of the Bank Reconciliations for July 31, 2025, and TR, along with bills to be paid.

26-09 Motion by Cocking to approve July 31, 2025, TR and July bills to be paid. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

District Annual Review DUE SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Althaus presented to the commissioners that we need to get this financial review completed before September 30, 2025. It was discussed that Becky Lindsay and Cameron Cocking will be completing this on Thursday, 8/28/25 at 9:30 a.m. here at the office.

FARMS Cost Share Update

FARMS Cost Share Applications

| Practice # | Name | Program | Practice | Estimated Cost | Cost Share Amt | Action |
|------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------|----------------|----------------|---------|
| 131707 | Derflinger, Delma | \$200 Buffer Initiative | CRP | \$1,918.00 | \$1,918.00 | Approve |
| | | | | | | |

FARMS Completed Cost Share Projects & Maintenance Agreements

| Practice # | Name | Program | Practice | Estimated Cost | Cost Share Amt | Action |
|------------|------|---------|----------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | |

FARMS Amendment

| Practice # | Name | Program | Practice | Estimated Cost | Cost Share Amt | Action |
|------------|-----------------|---------|------------------|--|----------------|--------|
| 102681 | Hoover, Patrick | IFIP | Grassed Waterway | Change Completion Date to Nov. 1 st of 2025 | | |
| | | | | | | |

FARMS Cancellation Cost Share Projects & Maintenance Agreements

| Practice # | Name | Program | Practice | Estimated Cost | Cost Share Amt | Action |
|------------|------|---------|----------|----------------|----------------|--------|
| | | | | | | |

26-10 Motion by Cocking to approve application and amendment for Cost Share. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Pheasants Forever Report

She has been assisting with CRP Renewals with staff and producers. Commissioners asked Althaus to reach out to her, to see if she could attend a meeting sometime. Althaus stated that she would do that, and she could pick what works in her schedule.

Conservation Districts of Iowa

Dolan is at the CDI Conference, today. He will give us a report at our next meeting.

Watersheds

A. Middle Cedar – Mary Beth Stevenson – nothing to report at this time.

B. Maquoketa Watershed – Erin Erickson, sent out an email and there is a meeting on October 28th at 5:00 p.m. Althaus will look up the email and send it out to the commissioners as a friendly reminder.

C. Upper Wapsi – Haven't heard anything

District Conservationist Report – Evan Ronnebaum, District Conservationist

- NRCS – There is a DC Meeting next Tuesday. The hiring freeze is still on.
- EQIP – We have 5 new contracts
- CSP – Nothing to Report
- CRP – There is 93 CRP contracts total. They are either re-enrolling or brand-new contracts.
- Technical Work – Erica Neideigh, Civil Engineer out of Manchester has been assisting in our engineering projects. Nikki Stansberry, our regular technician, is just currently back from maternity leave.

IA Department of Ag and Land Stewardship –

- 780 Hour Position – Jim has returned! He returned on August 15th.
- Althaus reviewed the memo dated, Monday, August 25, 2025, from IDALS regarding Streamside Buffer Pilot Project Targeting Priority Watersheds. What does this mean? It means Buchanan will have the Middle Cedar. This pilot covers the following watersheds North Raccoon, Boone, Middle Cedar, and Turkey watersheds and Dubuque County are eligible for the streambank Initiative pilot project.

NACD – nothing currently

District Activities

- A. On July 24th, Evan and Julie were asked to speak at an open house that Dylan and Greg Fangman are hosting at 5:30 p.m. It was held at their elevator. Overall, Evan thought it went well. Julie was unable to attend due to a conflict.

Conservation Plans – 68

26-11 Motion by Cocking to approve the Conservation Plans. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Other Items –

Priebe brought up Mestad's project and thought or wondered about doing a tour of it. Engineer- Jeff Lutz has it broken down into 3 projects. Althaus can reach out to Mestad's and Jeff Lutz.

Our next commissioner's meeting is scheduled for September 23rd at 2:00 p.m. here at the USDA Office.

Adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

26-12 Motion by Lindsay to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Cocking. Motion carried.

 9-23-25
Chairman Date

 9-23-25
Secretary Date

