

**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, September 23, 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, Co-Treasurer
Dale Priebe, Vice Chair
*Absent from Meeting

Linda Walthart, Assistant Commissioner

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Evan Ronnebaum, District Conservationist
Doug Davenport, ISU, Prairie Strips Presentation
Devin Stortz, Ducks Unlimited Presentation

The meeting was called to order by Dolan at 2:05 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Dolan called to adopt the agenda.

26-13 Motion by Priebe to approve the agenda with additions. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Guests –

Doug Davenport/ISU – Went over the information doing Prairie Strips and the benefits of them. He did a presentation that was very informative and what they discovered by doing Prairie Strips on the ground there is less dirt in the water. It has been successful, with it around the perimeter and down the center. Please see handout – attached.

Devn Stortz/Ducks Unlimited – did a presentation on what Ducks Unlimited has to offer for Conservation practices and different options. He also reported that they do cover crops at \$40.00 per acre. It is stackable with other programs. Several questions were answered from the commissioners and staff.

He also said that he is currently working with Andy and Landon Slattery on a possible Bioreactor/Saturated Buffer.

Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes dated August 29, 2025

Dolan called for the approval of August 29, 2025, Monthly Meeting Minutes.

26-14 Motion by Lindsay to approve the monthly meeting minutes of August 29, 2025, Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report & Bills to Be Paid-

- Review of the Bank Reconciliations for August 29, 2025, and TR, along with bills to be paid.
- 26-15 Motion** by Halligan to approve August 29, 2025, TR and September bills to be paid. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

District Annual Review DUE SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

The district annual review was completed on 8/28/2025 by Becky Lindsay and Cameron Cocking. Althaus presented a copy of the review to the commissioners and everything balanced.

26-16 Motion by Lindsay to approve the district annual review. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Althaus reported to the commissioners that she had received an email from Shelly Dunnick, Finance Specialist, with the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, on September 19, asking if it would be possible for the commissioners to do their Financial Site Visit between 10/20 – 10/24. I explained to her that I would present it to the commissioners, but it is going to be tough since they all could be in the middle of harvest.

In talking with the commissioners, it was suggested that we shoot for the first part of November. Althaus stated that she would let Shelly know.

FARMS Cost Share Update

FARMS Ledgers Remaining Balances, as of September 18, 2025 –

- IFIP \$27407.00
- REAP F/NG \$2,808.72
- REAP P \$9,937.35
- SF512 Middle Cedar HUC8 Project Group \$37,247.50

FARMS Cost Share Applications –

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
132690	Buchanan County Conservation	SF512-Water Quality Infrastructure	Wetlands	\$50,200.00	\$50,200.00	Approve
132801	JERMEN, LLC	Filter Strips \$200 CRP SignUp	Filter Strips	\$604.00	\$604.00	Approve
	Zieser, Larry	Filter Strips \$200 CRP SignUp	Filter Strips	\$534.00	\$534.00	Approve

FARMS Completed Cost Share Projects & Maintenance Agreements

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
115567	Alvera M Weber Estate	IFIP	Grassed Waterway	\$48,621.93	\$24,310.97	Approve

124795	Alvera M Weber Estate	Summer Incentive	Grassed Waterway	\$1,760.00	\$1,760.00	Approve
123665	Humes, Gary	REAP P	Windbreak	\$616.92	\$462.69	Approve

FARMS Amendment

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action

FARMS Cancellation Cost Share Projects & Maintenance Agreements

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action

26-17 Motion by Priebe to approve the FARMS Cost Share Applications and Completed Cost Share. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

#ID BUC880725C Sean and Sara Dolan – Wetland 2.41 Acres Funding Iowa WQI Fund Obligation. (Shane Wulfe and Jerry Neppel are the ones working on this project.

26-18 Motion by Halligan. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Conservation Districts of Iowa

Dolan reported the following. He attended the Annual Meeting, which was August 25th & 26th. Dolan was nominated the CDI President and was voted in. He stated that 88 commissioners attended out of 500. He reviewed the resolutions that were approved and those that were not. There was a discussion on Maintenance Agreements.

Watersheds

- A. Middle Cedar – Mary Beth Stevenson – Alhaus reported that they had 4 Maintenance Agreements that were recorded for a project that was completed by Jerry Fratzke. The recording fee was \$7.00 each which came to \$28.00 total. Alhaus has completed the forms from which she received from Mary Beth Stevenson to be reimbursed by the City of Cedar Rapids. She will need Dolan’s signature to complete this and get them sent in.
- B. Maquoketa Watershed – Alhaus reminded the commissioners that the Annual meeting of the Maquoketa Watershed is on October 28th at 5:00 p.m. in Monticello.
- C. Upper Wapsi – Haven’t heard anything

District Conservationist Report – Evan Ronnebaum, District Conservationist

NRCS Update

- EQIP & CSP Sign Up is going on. That will be closed on October 10, 2025. Ronnebaum asked if the commissioners would like to keep the same watersheds that they selected last year.

- CRP – Almost completed
- Meetings update – Ronnebaum did update the commissioners that we are looking at a possible Government Shut Down on October 1, 2025.

IA Department of Ag and Land Stewardship –

- Althaus reviewed the memo dated August 13, 2025 - WQI Streamside Buffer – there is a Filter Strip - SF512 non-harvestable \$500/ac Establishment & \$3,000/ac Foregone Income the other one is Filter Strip – SF512 Harvestable not enrolled in CRP- \$250/ac Establishment & \$1,500/ac Foregone Income. Width on both of them are minimum 30’ for the entire length. Maximum width is 100’ from each side of the stream.
- Reviewed the possibility of a government shutdown and where Julie would be at, also the Federal Office would be closed until they come to an agreement.

NACD – Legislative Committee for the Farm Bill met, it is called a skinny.

District Activities

- A. No Meeting as of right now for the month of October, they will play it by ear if there may be something change.

Conservation Plans – 12

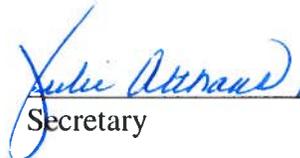
Other Items –

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 November 25th at 2:00 p.m. here at the USDA Office.

Adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

26-19 Motion by Lindsay to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

 <hr/> Chairman	11-25-25 <hr/> Date	 <hr/> Secretary	11-25-25 <hr/> Date
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