MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, January 20, 2026
1:30 p.m. at the Independence Field Office

Those in attendance were:

Commissioners

Cameron Cocking, Chair
Dale Priebe, Vice Chair
Tim Halligan, Treasurer *
Becky Lindsay, Co-Treasurer
Sean Dolan, Recipient of Bank Statement
*Absent from Meeting

Linda Walthart, Assistant Commissioner

Staff & Others

Julie Althaus, Conservation Assistant
Evan Ronnebaum, District Conservationist

The meeting was called to order by Cocking at 1:36 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Cocking called to adopt the agenda.
26-48 Motion by Dolan to approve the agenda. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Guests –

None at this time

Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes dated December 30, 2025 Minutes

Cocking called for the approval of December 30, 2025, Monthly Meeting Minutes.
26-49 Motion by Lindsay to approve the monthly meeting minutes of December 30, 2025, Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report & Bills to Be Paid-

- Review of the Bank Reconciliations for December 31, 2025, and TR, along with bills to be paid.
- Discussion regarding the bill from the IRS for $157.55 regarding the submission of past taxes on wages from 2017. Althaus explained that she was on the phone with the IRS for 1 ½ hours waiting to talk to someone prior to the meeting of December 30th, then called them on 12/31/25. Spoke with an individual and the system was not working, and the girl hung up on her. Althaus spoke with Dolan-Chair and explained what took place and made recommendations to get it paid. Dolan agreed, asked Althaus if she could reach out to Tim Halligan, Treasurer, to sign check. Tim stopped in and signed check and Althaus got it mailed out that morning of 12/31/2025.
- Althaus let the commissioners know that we did receive $3,000.00 from the Buchanan County Supervisors for FY2026, so that request has been submitted and we will be receiving a check.

26-50 Motion by Dolan to approve December 31, 2025, TR and bills to be paid. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Approve Organizational Meeting Minutes of January 6, 2026
Reviewed the Organizational Meeting Minutes from January 6, 2026.

26-51 Motion by Dolan to approve January 6, 2026, Organizational Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

Approve Updated District Polices dated January 6, 2026 – This was tabled until the meeting on February 16th.

FARMS Cost Share Update
FARMS Ledgers Remaining Balances, as of December 26, 2025 –

IFIP $1,548.98
REAP F/NG $2,808.72
REAP P $9,937.35

FARMS **Cost Share Applications** –

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
134000	Lee, Laura	REAP F/NG	Tree Planting	$3,932.50	$2,949.38	Approve

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

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
131357	White, Andy	Middle Cedar HUC8	Cover Crops 121.16	$6,058.00	$3,029.00	Approve
131583	Lehman, Randy	Middle Cedar HUC8	Cover Crop 132..97	$$6,648.50	$3,324.25	Approve
127929	Dolan, Sean	WQI	Cover Crops	$9,600.00	$3,200.00	Approve
132690	Buchanan County Conservation	SF512 - Water Quality Infrastructure Practices	Constructed Wetland	$50,200.00	$43,755.00	Approve
131292	Fangman, Philip	WQI	Cover Crops 27.6 ac.	$2,400.00	$552.00	Approve
130637	Rouse, Tony	WQI	Cover Crops 160 Ac	$9,600.00	$3,200.00	Approve
131582	Halligan, Timothy	Middle Cedar HUC8	Cover Crops-116.18	$5,809.00	$2,904.50	Approve
133538	Baragary, Dean	WQI	Cover Crops 54.3 ac	$5,000.00	$1,357.75	Approve
116980	Wilson, Korey	IFIP	Grassed Waterway	$80,321.12	$18,638.54	Approve
124723	Wilson, Korey	IFIP	Summer Inventive	$3,084.00	$3,084.00 (it could be less)	Approve

FARMS **Amendment**

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action

FARMS **Cancellation** Cost Share Projects & Maintenance Agreements * Explain Situation

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action

26-52 Motion to Approve by Priebe to approve all cost share applications and completed cost share applications. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Conservation Districts of Iowa
Dolan reported that February 12th is Conservation Partnership Day in Des Moines at 9:30 a.m. in the IOWA History Bldg.

NE IA Spring Regional Meeting will be held on March 4, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in West Union. We will be getting an agenda and registration form soon.

CDI Annual Meeting is going to be one day this year; there will be a social event the night before. Reservations can be made at the Gateway Hotel. It will be right after State Fair, again this year.

Review of CDI Resolutions will be reviewed at our meeting on February 17, 2026. Suggestions need to be to CDI on or before 3/30/26.

Watersheds

A. Middle Cedar Zoom Meeting on 1/15/26 – Dolan listened to the Zoom Meeting, discussion on Farmer to Farmer. They stated that they would be glad to come to any of our district commissioner meetings. The next meeting is on April 9th in Grundy County. Watch for details.

B. Maquoketa Watershed – we just received their newsletter; everyone should have received it.

C. Upper Wapsi – Dolan attended the meeting at Twin Ponds in Ionia. They had Dr. Sinclair speaking about the water samples that have been completed. Levels were high to affect the invertebrates. (Dolan also mentioned a Grant from Nature Conservancy.)

Commissioners Up for Re-election this Fall
Those that are up for re-election are – Dale Priebe and Tim Halligan.

District Conservationist Report – Evan Ronnebaum, District Conservationist

NRCS Update –
EQIP – 13 new applications / 17 rollovers

CSP – 2 new applications / 5 rollovers
Deadline for EQIP and CSP is March to the middle of April.

CRP – We have 320 status reviews

Meetings Update – There will be meetings coming up regarding the Regenerative Program. What he is aware of now is that there will be a soil test done before and after the contract.

IA Department of Ag and Land Stewardship – Open Records and Open Meetings Zoom, it is scheduled for the 14th and 26th of January. This is presented by Eric Gerst. Please participate if you can.

NACD – Althaus reported that she received an email from NACD, regarding a book that is titled "Conservation IN THE FIELD Careers Where the Land Leads". She ordered 8 of them for right now, they are free and thought that we could send them to the local schools, and possibly the FFA's.

Need to Initial and Date Commissioners Maps – Completed

Need to Initial and Date District Financial Policies Annual Check List - Completed

Conservation Plans – 22

Other Items –
Althaus reminded the commissioners that Jim's last day is January 29th, were we going to do something for him.

Our next commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17th at 1:30 p.m. here at the USDA Office.

Adjourned at 2:21 p.m.

26-53 Motion by Dolan to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

2.18.26 — Chairman — Date

Julie Althaus 2/18/26 — Secretary — Date