MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Tuesday, February 18, 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 1:35 p.m.

Adopt Agenda
Cocking called to adopt the agenda.
26-54 Motion by Dolan to approve the agenda. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Guests –
None at this time

Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes dated January 31, 2026 Minutes
Cocking called for the approval of January 31, 2026, Monthly Meeting Minutes.
26-55 Motion by Dolan to approve the monthly meeting minutes of January 31, 2026, Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report & Bills to Be Paid-

- Review of the Bank Reconciliations for January 31, 2026, and TR, along with bills to be paid.

26-56 Motion by Lindsay to approve January 31, 2026, TR and bills to be paid. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Review Letter to Shelly Dunnick on Financial Review
Went over the items that were sent on Shelly's recommendation letter. The commissioners reviewed the response letter.

26-57 Motion by Dolan to approve the Financial Review Letter addressed to Shelly Dunnick. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Approve Updated District Polices

Althaus contacted Madison at CDI, and she wanted to start the whole process again, and we just need to update ours, and add a couple of pictures. Dolan stated to let Madison know exactly what we would like to do. Althaus stated that she would do that.

FARMS Cost Share Update

FARMS Ledgers Remaining Balances, as of December 26, 2025 –

IFIP $1,948.98
REAP F/NG $0.00
REAP P $9,796.69

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	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
124770	Cornell, Daron	REAP – P	Windbreak	$1,877.04	$1,407.78	Approve
114910	Engelbrecht, Josh	IFIP	Grassed Waterway	$8,445.00	$2,511.00	Approve
114915	Engebrecht, Mark	IFIP	Grassed Waterway	$5,133.00	$2,467.30	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

26-59 Motion to Approve by Lindsay to approve all cost share applications and completed cost share applications. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

Reviewed memo from IDALS on the district establishes priority ranking system -
Items reviewed as follows:

- Is the District Policy 'first come, first serve' for cost share – First come first served
- Are Practice types ranked for cost share – no
- Are practice types prioritized by HEL classification or soil type – no
- Are new applicants for funding prioritized by the district for cost share – no
- Does the District prioritize any watersheds? No, Are practices further prioritized relative to the proximity to a stream or lake? – no
- Is the summer incentive prioritized by the District? We are pushing hard to have all our waterways done in the summer.
- Has the District established local cost share policies and/or limitations on practices? There is a cap of $25,000 on cost shared projects. For Summer Incentive we have a cap of $200.00 per acre.

NE IA Spring Regional Meeting will be held on March 4, 2026, at 4:00 p.m. in West Union. NEED TO RSVP by February 18th. Those attending Sean, President of CDI, Cameron Cocking, Becky Lindsay, and Julie Althaus. Althaus will be responsible for her registration and Sean's is paid for since he is the CDI President. Total that needs to be approved $50.00 for registrations.
26-60 Motion by Halligan to approve registrations fees for Cocking and Lindsay. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Conservation Districts of Iowa – Dolan

a. Review Partnership Day
b. CDI will be partnering with other organizations for "Celebrate Iowa's Outdoors Day on March 24th at the Iowa State Capitol" watch for details.
c. CDI Meeting in Washington D.C. fly in the night before, then fly home the next day.
d. Envirothon will be in April it will be held at Granger Park.
e. Next year the Annual Meeting will be held one day, everything will be at the Gateway Hotel in Ames. One can come in the night before and the meeting will be the following day. Planning some breakout sessions.

Watersheds

A. Middle Cedar – Mary Beth Stevenson – Newsletter – Next meeting will be on April 9th

B. Maquoketa Watershed – Erin Erickson – Newsletter – Board of Directors Meeting on March 31st @ 6:00 p.m. at Hillside Sports Bar & Grill.

C. Upper Wapsi – Nothing at this time

District Conservationist Report – Evan Ronnebaum, DC

- EQIP Deadline is 4/24/26, looking at 40 rollovers.
- CSP Deadline is 4/3
- CRP – 324 Status Reviews – Currently 60 are done, will need to send out yellow letters for work on current practice. The new CRP signup is going on right now.

IA Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Althaus stated that she is going to try to get the Annual report done for our March Meeting.

Website and Facebook – Have been updated.

District Tree Sale Update – going pretty good, the last day to order is March 25th.

Initial and Date District Financial Policies Annual Check List

Conservation Plans – 6

Other Items –
Althaus will be filling in at Linn County until they get a new Conservation Assistant, this will start on February 26th, she plans on going down on Tuesdays.

Priebe brought up discussion on the Battery Plant that they want to put in just south of Hazleton.

Our next commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 18 at 1:30 p.m. here at the USDA Office. Lindsay will not attend this meeting.

Adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

26-61 Motion by Lindsay to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

3-18-26 3-18-26

Chairman Date Secretary Date