**MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING**
**INDEPENDENCE, IA**
**Wednesday, March 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.
**26-61 Motion** by Dolan to approve the agenda. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

**Guests –**
None at this time

**Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes dated February 17, 2026**
Cocking called for the approval of February 17, 2026, Monthly Meeting Minutes.
**26-62 Motion** by Dolan to approve the monthly meeting minutes of February 17, 2026, Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

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

- Review of the Bank Reconciliations for February 17, 2026, and TR, along with bills to be paid-no bills this month.

**26-63 Motion** by Dolan to approve February 17, 2026, TR – no bills this month. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

**Fabric Machine**
Althaus asked the commissioners if they would want to sell the Fabric Machine, we used it once last year. We have one full roll, and approximately ¾ of another roll. When the commissioners got this, it was new but now a lot of the contractors have them. It is up for discussion; it is the commissioner's decision. After discussion amongst the commissioners, it was suggested that it be taken to Joel Everett Auction for it to be sold.

**26-64 Motion** by Dolan to take the fabric machine to Joel Everett's Auction. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

**Approve Updated District Polices**

All we need to do is update the commissioners' pictures, along with some additional Outreach items and send them off to Madison at CDI. Althaus, will get hopefully get the pictures, to be updated. She has sent the other items that need to be sent.

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

IFIP $4,614.68
REAP F/NG $0.00
REAP P $9,796.69

FARMS **Cost Share Applications** –

| Practice # | Name | Program | Practice | Estimated Cost | Cost Share Amt | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 134204 | Cook, Tom | REAP P | Windbreak | $1,078.40 | 808.80 | Approve |
| | | | | | | |

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

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

FARMS **Amendment**

| Practice # | Name | Program | Practice | | | Action |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 116409 | Margaret Ann Vogel Testamentary Trust | REAP F/NG | Forest Stand Improvement | Extension of Completion Date from 5/28/25 to 5/28/27 | | Approve |
| | | | | | | |

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

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

**26-65 Motion to Approve** by Priebe to approve all cost share applications and amended cost share application. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

**CDI - NE IA Spring Regional Meeting** was held on March 4, 2026, in West Union.
Dolan gave the report, there were 27 commissioners in attendance, it was the largest attended Spring Regional. John Hubert/State Conservationist-Iowa NRCS held a good discussion on some of the issues that are going on with NRCS. Fayette County did the presentation regarding different conservation practices that are being used in Fayette County, it was very interesting listening to the success of these practices. There was also a presentation done by DNR regarding mussels.

Dates to remember are as follows:

a. Tuesday, March 24th is Outdoor Iowa down in Des Moines at the State Capitol.
b. Wednesday, March 25th – Dolan will be in Washington D.C. for the Fly-In, and they have appointments with our Congressional Delegation Individuals

**Watersheds**

A. Middle Cedar – Mary Beth Stevenson – Dolan attended a meeting, theme Brewing Conservation. (I missed some details on this – need to clarify.)

B. Maquoketa Watershed – Erin Erickson – There is board meeting on 3/31/26, everyone should have received the email.

C. Upper Wapsi – Meeting on April 7th at 1:30 p.m. being held at Twin Ponds, Ionia.

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

- EQIP Deadline is 4/24/26, has 24 applications
- CSP Deadline is 4/3, has 11 applications
  - Still have 2 individuals waiting for their payment
  - No longer taking applications for grain dryers or energy audits.
- CRP – Still working on status reviews, currently have 100 completed, 300 to do. (We had 224 at the previous meeting)
- Aaron Anderson will be on the 20th in the morning for his quarterly review.
- Priebe asked about any updates on the Battery Energy possibility by Hazleton. He attended the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting.

**IA Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship –** Althaus will be working on the Annual Report, she has to get this completed.

**Website and Facebook –**

**District Tree Sale Update –** Althaus asked the commissioners about advertising in the Bulletin Journal and Farm Bureau Spokesman, the cost will be $189.00 for the 2.
**26-66 Motion by** Priebe to approve advertisement cost for the tree sale for 2026. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

**Initial and Date District Financial Policies Annual Check List**

**Conservation Plans** – 4

**Other Items** –
Althaus has been filling in at Linn County, we had a meeting on 3/17. It was awesome that Dolan was there representing CDI.

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, April 21st at 1:30 p.m. here at the USDA Office.

Adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

**26-67 Motion by** Halligan to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Priebe. Motion carried.

X _____ X 4-17-26
Chairman Date

_____ 4-17-26
Secretary Date