MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Friday, April 17, 2026
11:30 a.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 11:40 a.m.

Adopt Agenda

Cocking called to adopt the agenda.
26-68 Motion by Lindsay to approve the agenda. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Guests –

None at this time

Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes dated March 18, 2026

Cocking called for the approval of March 18, 2026, Monthly Meeting Minutes.
26-69 Motion by Dolan to approve the monthly meeting minutes of March 18, 2026, Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report & Bills to Be Paid-

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

26-70 Motion by Lindsay to approve March 31, 2026, TR – with bills to be paid. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Update on District Policies

This was tabled until the commissioner's next meeting.

FARMS Cost Share Update

FARMS Ledgers Remaining Balances, as of April 17, 2026 –

IFIP $32,146.74
REAP F/NG $0.00
REAP P $9,742.26

FARMS **Cost Share Applications**

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
134886	Neighbor, Irene Kay	IFIP	Strip-Till	$3,200.00	$1,600.00	Approve

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

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action

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

26-71 Motion by Dolan to approve the application for cost share. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

CDI – Dolan reported that they had a meeting last week. He stated that he assisted with judging the scholarships this year. He stated that the Envirothon is on April 22nd. Also, that we know of anyone who would qualify for any of the awards, those are coming up also.

Dolan reported that on Tuesday, March 24th was the Outdoor Iowa down in Des Moines at the State Capitol, it went well.

On Wednesday, March 25th – Dolan was in Washington D.C. for the Fly-In, and got to discuss some concerns with our congressman there.

Watersheds

A. Middle Cedar – Mary Beth Stevenson – we received notification that Mary Beth Stevenson is retiring from her position, and that Erin Erickson will be replacing her.

B. Maquoketa Watershed – Erin Erickson – Discussed the newsletter that we received on April 16th, that Erin will be leaving the Maquoketa Watershed to replace Mary Beth Stevenson in the Cedar River Watershed. It will be effective on April 24th, they are currently looking for applicants.

C. Upper Wapsi – Nothing to report at this time, Dolan was unable to attend.

District Conservationist Report – Evan Ronnebaum, DC

- EQIP Deadline was extended to May 15th.
- CSP selections were completed on Friday, April 10th, we had 3 that were selected. There were no Regenerative Applications.
- CRP – Wanted to make the commissioners aware that CRP plans will be coming.
- Ronnebaum reported that they will be having a teams meeting next week. And also, our State Conservationist, Jon Hubert will be retiring effective April 30th.

IA Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – Nothing new to update right now.

Scholarships for 2026- we have 3 schools participating this year, so they will each receive $700.00 each. The following are the awards nights for presentations:

a. Jesup Dollars for Scholars – April 30th @ 7:00 p.m. at the New Auditorium – Dolan will present
b. East Buchanan Funds for the Future – April 22nd @ 6:30 p.m. Events Gym – Walthart will present
c. Independence Dollars for Scholars – May 6th @ 6:45 p.m. Jr./Sr. High School Auditorium – Walthart or Althaus, they will work it out.

Website and Facebook – Nothing new to update

Nominees for Environmental Leader Award due date May 4th – Please let Julie know if you may have someone in mind.

IDALS-Award Information

- Ken Wagner Award (Recognizing beginning SWCD Commissioner)
- Ruth Wagner Award (Recognizing SWCD Assistant Commissioner Contributions)
- Outstanding SWCD Commissioner Award
- Paul Johnson Outstanding Soil and Water Conservation District Award

780 Hour Position – Althaus will be putting the advertisement together and email out to the commissioners for approval.

Tree Sale Update – Althaus reviewed how the tree sale went. Overall, fantastic, the trees were beautiful, it was great unloading and sorting for the buyers. Everyone was very pleased!

Initial and Date District Financial Policies Annual Check List

Conservation Plans – 0

Other Items –
Althaus gave an update on Linn County, they have completed interviews, we are waiting on for her to accept the offer, then everything will start with the beginning processes.

Our next commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 13th at 10:30 p.m. or possibly later in the afternoon here at the USDA Office. Since mother nature isn't working with us right now, we may have to miss the May meeting. We will play it by ear.

Adjourned at 12:35 p.m.

26-72 Motion by Lindsay to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

6-17-26
Chairman Date

6/17/26
Secretary Date