MINUTES OF THE BUCHANAN SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONER'S MEETING
INDEPENDENCE, IA
Thursday, August 27, 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 Priebe at 2:09 p.m.

Adopt Agenda

Priebe called to adopt the agenda with the addition of East Buchanan Internship/Job Shadowing.
27-08 Motion by Dolan to approve the agenda. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Guests –

None at this time

Approval of Monthly Meeting Minutes dated July 22, 2026

Cocking called for the approval of June 17, 2026, Monthly Meeting Minutes.
27-09 Motion by Lindsay to approve the monthly meeting minutes of July 22, 2026, Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report & Bills to Be Paid-

Review of the Bank Reconciliations for July 31, 2026, and TR, along with bills to be paid.
27-10 Motion by Dolan to approve July 31, 2026, TR – with bills to be paid. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

Althaus made the commissioners aware that the renewal of their CD in the amount of $82,623.61 was automatically renewed on 8/15/2026 at 3.71%. Interest amount of $1,285.05 was put in checking.
27-11 Motion by Dolan to approve the report on the CD. Seconded by Halligan. Motion carried.

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

IFIP - $28,600.62
REAP F/NG - $2,361.57
REAP P - $10,589.45

MK TA BL

FARMS **Cost Share Applications** –

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
139092	Baragary Brothers	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
141343	Cameron, Chris	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
141348	Cameron, Craig	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
141936	Dennie, Nick	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
139077	Dolan, Sean	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
139079	Dolan, Mikel	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,554.40	$3,277.20	Approve
142214	Dolan, William	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,042.00	$3,021.00	Approve
139076	Engelbrecht, Mark H	WQI	Cover Crops	$$3,832.80	$1,916.40	Approve
135446	Fischels, Doug	Middle Cedar	Cover Crops	$8,000.00	$4,000.00	Approve
141430	Fuller, Nick	WQI	Cover Crops	$4,400.00	$2,200.00	Approve
141422	Fuller, Ray	WQI	Cover Crops	$4,400.00	$2,200.00	Approve
139068	Gallery, Mike	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
139023	Johnson, Kenneth	WQI	Cover Crops	$833.20	$416.60	Approve
136075	Kaiser, Doug	WQI	Cover Crops	$3,200.00	$1,600.00	Approve
141210	Kerns, Blake	WQI	Cover Crops	$1,569.60	$784.80	Approve
140798	Milbach, Keith	Middle Cedar	Cover Crops	$12,352.50	$6,176.25	Approve
139083	Naber, Michael	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
141898	Riensche, Hans	WQI	Cover Crops	$4,781.60	$2,390.80	Approve
141439	Rouse, Tony	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
140586	Slattery, Andrew	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
141538	Slattery, Morgan	WQI	Cover Crops	$9,600.00	$4,800.00	Approve
141220	Sperfslage, Richard	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
141226	Strauel Farms – Bob	Middle Cedar	Cover Crops	$14,111.00	$7,055.50	Approve
141229	Svoboda, Matthew	WQI	Cover Crops	$482.00	$241.00	Approve
139044	Weber, Ralph	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve
137285	White, Andrew	Middle Cedar	Cover Crops	$7,294.80	$3,647.40	Approve
142651	Natlin, LLC – Jason Trumbauer	WQI	Cover Crops	$6,400.00	$3,200.00	Approve

142234	Milbach, Matthew	Middle Cedar	Cover Crops	$10,000.00	$5,000.00	Approve

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

Practice #	Name	Program	Practice	Estimated Cost	Cost Share Amt	Action
129663	Dage, Brett	WQI	No-Till	$3,200.00	$1,600.00	Approve

27-12 Motion by Lindsay to approve cost share applications and completed cost share. Seconded by Halligan. Dolan abstained. Motion carried.

CDI –

Dolan gave report of the CDI Conference that was held on August 24th thru the 26th, in Ames. There was some really good information there. Ruth McCabe gave a report on cropping systems – No-Till is a no brainer in other countries. We run into the problem here is that our ground is so fertile. There were 6 resolutions that passed. Dolan got re-elected as president

Watersheds

A. Middle Cedar – Mary Beth Stevenson – Althaus was unable to get on conference call.

B. Maquoketa Watershed – Hired Judy Joyce for Erin's replacement. (Need to double check and make sure that this is correct.)

C. Upper Wapsi –

District Conservationist Report – Evan Ronnebaum, DC –

A. NRCS Reorganization – everyone will be getting letters, along with an email. Everyone will be getting a notification.
B. EQIP – We will have 2 expiring contracts this year.
C. New Applications – we have 1 CSP Application and 2 additional applications but are trying to decide if they want to go EQIP or CSP.
D. Ronnebaum asked the commissioners if they want to keep the same watersheds as last year.
27-13 Motion Lindsay to keep the same watersheds. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.
E. Mestad's Project was brought up and there have been several discussions. The decision was to follow up with them to see if they are still interested in this project.

IA Dept. of Agriculture and Land Stewardship – New Fiscal Year will start on July 1, 2026.

780 Hr. Position Update – Bobby will be contacting the individuals, he wants to do them as soon as he can. He will be communicating with us.

Conservation Plans – 44
27-13 Motion by Lindsay to approve the conservation plans. Seconded by Dolan. Motion carried.

Other Items –

A. Job-Shadow/Internship Opportunity – Althaus was contacted by Shyla Bagge, Work Experience Coordinator/Work Based learning Coordinator regarding student – Eric Tempus checking out what we do. It would be from 1:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Althaus is currently making sure that we get all of the approvals to do this work. She will need to get back to Shyla if the commissioners approve this.
27-14 Motion by Dolan to approve the internship with Eric Tempus. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

B. Field Day at Dick Sloan's Wetland – Priebe spoke with Wyatt Miller, tenant on Dick Sloan's farm. It was suggested to do this September. Althaus will get in touch with Shane Wulf regarding time and hopefully yet this September. Dolan will talk to D Engler.

C. Dolan brought to the table that Madison from CDI would like to work with us regarding a "Working Group" for our 5-year plan.

D. Althaus brought up the purchase of 5 new plat books, since ours here at the office are outdated. They are $28.00 each, we need 5. Total would be $140.00.
27-15 Motion by Dolan to approve the purchase of the 5 plat books at $140.00 total. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

Our next commissioner's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at 1:30 p.m.

Adjourned at 3:16 p.m.

27-16 Motion by Dolan to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Lindsay. Motion carried.

9-15-2026
Chairman Date
Acting

9/15/26
Secretary Date