

**ALLAMAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**February 7, 2017**

**TIME 6:00 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

Those attending

Commissioners: Jack Knight, Don Elsbernd, Josh Dee, and Mike McCormick

Staff: Sara Berges, LuAnn Rolling, Brianne Wild, Megan Waechter

Guests: Allie Rath Pheasants Forever

The monthly meeting of the Allamakee Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners was called to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Allamakee USDA Service Center in Waukon by Chairman Jack Knight.

**1. Adopt Agenda.**

A motion to adopt the agenda was made by McCormick and seconded by Dee. The motion carried unanimously.

**2. Approve minutes from January**

A motion to approve the minutes from January was made by Dee and seconded by McCormick. The motion carried unanimously

**3. Approve Financial Report and bills from January**

**\$692.40 - Elliott Jewelers – clocks for awards banquet**

**\$320.00- Hacker & Nelson Payroll, taxes,& W-2's**

**\$263.75- BE Catered- Awards Banquet Meal**

**\$40.34- Go Daddy Website renewal**

**\$300.00-Pitney Bowes Postage**

A motion to approve the financial report and bills was made by Elsbernd and seconded by McCormick. The motion carried unanimously.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**A. PF Update- Allie Rath**

Allie introduced herself and the counties she will be covering. She will be helping us with our CRP plans and checks and any other wildlife advice producers may need or want. Allie will present to us quarterly to keep us informed of what she is doing.

**B. Update of Ongoing Initiatives by Rolling**

Rolling reported that we have 4 EQIP applications currently approved and they are all under DALCI and they are all streambanks. We have not yet spent any of our own allocation but we do have 12 cover crop apps, 2 energy for lights, and a couple pasture apps. The deadline for funding for EQIP this year is March 17<sup>th</sup>.

CSP applications we currently have 11 and the rules this year have changed and all of the easier enhancements are no longer. It is much more difficult for producers to

achieve some of these enhancements to NRCS specifications. They have to enroll everything they own and what they can get permission for on rented ground. Also they have to do an activity on all land uses.

**C. Leopold Grant Report / RCPP Report**

- 1. Reimbursement Request from Leopold Center for \$1959.03**
- 2. Will the commissioners continue to pay Sara's salary 1 day/week as match for Leopold? Not sure when RCPP funds will start to cover some of salary and will be based on Technical Assistance for conservation practice implementation only.**

Sara reported that there hasn't been much more information on the RCPP from last month they are still thinking that the higher rate for the small grains won't be an issue. The Leopold grant she has sent in progress reports and the second year of the project has full funding. She sent out a newsletter on the project and has a few people interested. A reporter from the Cedar Rapids Gazette contacted her about writing an article on the lease project she did. She is presenting at the Driftless Symposium in lacrosse about the project over the next 2 days. Also she attended a manure application training and thought it was very useful toward her project.

A motion to approve the report and the reimbursement request was made by Elsbernd and seconded by McCormick.

A motion to approve paying Sara 1 day a week until RCPP funding comes was made by Dee and seconded by Elsbernd. The motion carried unanimously.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Sara's annual review**

- 1. Pay raise to \$19.80?**

**A motion to approve Sara's pay raise to \$19.80/ hr was made by McCormick and seconded by Dee. The motion carried unanimously.**

**The commissioners did Sara's annual review and it shows she is doing an excellent job on her projects and Rolling suggested that she be rewarded for getting the only RCPP grant in the state by giving her 1 additional week of maternity leave so she will have a total of 3 weeks paid. A motion to approve this was made by McCormick and seconded by Dee. The motion carried unanimously.**

**B. Maternity Leave for Sara – Starting sometime in June for 4 weeks and then 2 weeks part time - FYI**

**C. Photo Contest – Do we want to do separate youth/adult categories again? Theme? Photo contest will be separate categories and the theme will be “Conservation in Action”**

#### **D. Scholarship**

- 1. Due Date- Will be Feb 28<sup>th</sup>**

Brianne will send to schools immediately so they can get them back to us on time.

#### **E. Newsletter**

- 1. NEIP- \$840 to print 2150 newsletters 8 pages each.**
- 2. USPS need check to mail once printed won't know amount until we know weight of each newsletter**

**Brianne reported the cost for the annual newsletter to be printed and also for a check to be written for the postage so it can be mailed as soon as it's ready. We want it out before March because there are deadlines in march that producers need to know about.**

A motion to approve paying for the newsletter printing and writing a check for postage was made by Elsbernd and McCormick. The motion carried unanimously.

#### **F. District Policies**

- 1. Financial- Review Notes from Financial Site visit from IDALS  
-Checking into new CPA for cheaper**
- 2. Sodbust**
- 3. Cost-share**
- 4. CRP**

**Brianne reviewed the District Financial policies and the notes from the site visit from IDALS . The commissioners decided to approve adopting the Financial policies as their own the motion was made by Dee and seconded by McCormick. The motion carried unanimously.**

**A motion to table the discussion on Policies for sodbust, cost-share, and CRP was made by McCormick and seconded by Dee. The motion carried unanimously.**

#### **G. CDI**

- 1. Call for Resolutions**
- 2. Spring Regional Meeting Registration due by March 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**The commissioners would like to write a resolution for the pollinator habitat and also the saturated buffers. The commissioners and office will work on these and have them submitted for the Feb 24<sup>th</sup> deadline. A motion to approve writing these resolutions and having them submitted by the Feb 24<sup>th</sup> deadline was made by McCormick and seconded by Elsbernd. The motion carried unanimously.**

### **Assistance Requests**

Randy Wedo (Ralph Cambell Farm t-236) Buffers Estimated Cost-\$5,160.00

A motion to approve the assistance request was made by Elsbernd and seconded by McCormick. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Completed Projects**

Herman Family LP (58911) cover crop – Cost share amount \$2,500.00

Raymond Wagner (58879) terraces – Total amount \$2,993.33 Cost-share amount - \$1,496.66

Brian Herman(58908) cover crop-Cost-Share amount -\$1,035.00

Adam Anderson(57367) cover crop- Cost-Share-\$1,095.00

Adam Anderson (57372) cover crop- Cost-Share-\$855.00

Judith Robinson(58731) Waterway-Total Amount-\$16,248.75 Cost-Share-\$7,980.00

Brad Herman (56829) Cover crop-Cost-Share-\$3,570.00

George Beardmore(57531) Cover Crop- Cost-Share-\$1,250.00

A motion to approve the completed projects was made by Dee and seconded by McCormick. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Plan Revisions**

Josh Woods for Ted McNally (t7992) – 25.6 ac

Doug Zieman for Beverly Bacon (t8123) – 67 ac

Doug Zieman for Sandy Bacon (t8124) – 212 ac

Nick Donlon for Delores Beisker (t132) – 78.2 ac

Norbert & Doris Meyer Rev. Trust for Cody Meyer (t1133)-17.8 ac.

Ron Adam for Reggie Adam (t379)-80.76 ac.

Keith Marovets (t48)-2.2 ac.

Virgil & Roger Thorstenson for Josh Woods & Randy Wedo (t609)-131.6 ac.

Ralph Cambell Family Trust for Randy Wedo (t236)-84.0 ac.

Linda Sorum for Sam Schwartz (t1889)- 99.0 ac.

Kenneth Baumler Estate for Zack Bushman (t7502)- 70.3 ac.

Kenneth Baumler Estate for Zack Bushman (t679)-30.4 ac.

A motion to approve the plan revisions was made by McCormick and seconded by Elsbernd. The motion carried unanimously.

### **Sodbust**

Dauson Ridge LLC for Judd Larson (t1119)-8.9 ac.- ok to approve

A motion to approve the sodbust was made by Elsbernd and seconded by McCormick. The motion carried unanimously.

**EQIP**

Arthur Hooten-Streambank  
Daryl Schulte-Streambank  
David Schulte-Streambank  
Blake Family Part. LLC- Streambank

A motion to approve the EQIPS was made by McCormick and seconded by Dee. The motion carried unanimously.

Misc. Look into ordering nice polo shirts for the district.

Next Meeting Date: March 7, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 was made by Elsbernd and seconded by McCormick. The motion carried unanimously.



Jack Knight, Chairman



Brianne Wild, Conservation Assistant

