

ALLAMAKEE COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 7, 2017

TIME 6:00 p.m.

MINUTES

Those attending

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

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

The monthly meeting of the Allamakee Soil and Water Conservation District commissioners was called to order at 6:07 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 Dee and seconded by O'Hare. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Approve minutes from February

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

3. Approve Financial Report and bills from February

\$ -Hacker & Nelson

\$840.00- Northeast Iowa Printers –newsletter

\$339.30- USPS- Newsletter mailing

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

OLD BUSINESS

A. Update of Ongoing Initiatives by Rolling

Megan and LuAnn have been busy meeting with CSP participants and are figuring it takes about 40 hrs per CSP applicant to get everything ready. We have figured out that payments seem to be more profitable for smaller farmers. We have had lots of interest in EQIP cover crops about 25-30 people interested. The deadline for these EQIP application is Mar. 17th. We have started the third session of soil health meetings and the most recent discussion held was a very successful one had a lot of good questions and conversation.

B. Leopold Grant Report

1. Reimbursement Request from Leopold Center for \$2,251.25

2. Equipment needs for the project? Would the commissioners want to buy a drill or something else to ensure the success of the project?

Berges reported that she is setting up for the cover crop field day and it will be in Apr. either the 5th or 6th she will try and narrow down the day when landowners get back

to her. It will be an afternoon field day and it will be driving to 3 different farms. The newsletter was sent out with information regarding the project, Sara also wrote some articles for the Ag section that is to be coming out in the Waukon Standard soon. Information about the photo contest has also been sent out to the schools. She has spent a few days working on RCPP spreadsheet and it has been sent for review and have not heard back yet. She wrote article for the paper on herbicides and cover crops and also presented at the driftless symposium and the annie's project meeting.

C. Review Policy for State Cost-share and CRP

Commissioners reviewed policy and made changes to Cover crops and state cost share on terraces. See new policies for changes. A motion to approve these changes was made by Dee and seconded by Elsbernd. The motion carried unanimously.

D. Scholarship

Commissioners will pick their top 3 and let Brianne know and she will notify the schools of the winners. They will each get a \$500 scholarship.

E. Planting Plan for Field, Special, and increase plantings

A test plot of Big bluestem will be implemented in one of the County Conservations ground with two different half acre plots of seed.

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

F. District Polo Shirts

Brianne will pick the shirts and let the commissioners know and get sizes for them.

NEW BUSINESS

A. Conservation Education Day Thursday April 27th.

1. Trees
2. Lunches

Brianne reported the new date for Conservation education day this year and asked if the commissioners would help at the canoeing station or if they knew someone who could.

Assistance Request

Lars Palmer on Wayne Fish –Buffers Estimated Cost-\$3,000.00

Randy Wedo on Ralph Campbell- Buffers Estimated Cost-\$5,160.00

SBJ Farms-Buffers-Estimated Cost-\$2,400.00

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

Amendment Requests

Gary Hibben-TSI-Completion Date 8/4/2016 Extended to 6/30/2017

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

Completed Projects

Jean Huffey-TSI- Eligible Cost-\$4,000.00 Cost-Share-\$2,400.00

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

Plan Revisions

SBJ Farms (t8179)- 211.6 ac.

John Byrnes on Clete Althoff (t-901)-26.2 ac.

Lars Palmer on Wayne Fish (t5869)-147.4 ac.

Don Burcher for Randy Beneke (t8059)-28.4 ac.

Donald Kerndt Trust for Patsy Kerndt (t7049)- 5.33 ac.

Steve Stortz for Don Haler (t5338)- 116.2 ac.

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

Sodbust

Steve Stortz on Don Haler (t5338)- 3.2 ac.- ok to approve

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

CRP

Ronald Meiners- (t15240) MN, CP38E-2

A motion to approve the CRP contract was made by McCormick and seconded by O'Hare. The motion carried unanimously.

Misc

Next Meeting Date: April 4 at 6:00 p.m.

Adjourn

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

Chairman, Jack Knight

Conservation Assistant, Brianne Wild