

**MINUTES OF THE LINN COUNTY  
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS MEETING**

Marion, IA

3/12/2024

Location: Cedar Rapids-Linn County Solid Waste Agency

**Call Meeting to order:**

Laura Krouse called the 03/12/2024, meeting of the Linn Soil & Water Conservation District Commissioners to order at 8:45 a.m.

**Commissioners Present:**

Bruce Frana  
Laura Krouse  
Sue Ellen Hosch  
Robert Broulik  
Alan Horak

**Assistant Commissioner:**

Karmin McShane

**Staff**

Levi Schwartz, District Conservationist  
Mark Bienemann, Conservation Technician  
Marissa Cartwright, Soil Water Coordinator  
Jeanette Shoop, Conservation Assistant

**Guest:**

Mary Beth Stevenson via Zoom

**Adopt Agenda:**

- 24-56 Motion by Broulik to adopt the agenda. Second by Frana. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes of previous meeting:**

The minutes of the 2/13/2024 Organizational Meeting and Regular Meeting were presented for approval.

- 24-57 Motion by Horak to approve the 2/13/2024 Organizational Meeting minutes and the Regular Meeting minutes. Seconded by Broulik. Motion carried unanimously.

**Public Comment:** N/A

**Treasurers report & bills:**

No Treasurer's Report (*Bank Statement arrived too late for processing*).

Approve payments:

- 24-58 Motion by Hosch to approve the following payments:
  - payment to Doug Wyman for storage & management- no-till drill, in the amount of \$100.00
  - payment to Jackie Wedeking for website assistance in the amount of \$22.00
  - payment to Jeanette Shoop for registration for Regional Meeting in the amount of \$54.00.Seconded by Broulik. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approve Conservation Plan:**

- 24-59 Motion by Broulik to approve the 3-year Conservation Plan, for 135.6 acres submitted by NRCS. Seconded by Hosch. Motion carried. (*Section 1619 of the Farm Bill-confidential information shall not be provided*)

**Old Business**

Indian Creek WMA: Frana reported on the Zoom meeting held on 3/21/24. Discussion was held regarding funding signs, payment on the water station at Thomas Park, and a possible grant proposal.

Lower Cedar WMA: Krouse reported on the meeting held on 2/13/24. Discussion involved the current legislation that would change the name of Water Management Authority to Water Management Partnership and the cost involved. A letter was sent stating the WMA was not in favor of the name change proposed.

Maquoketa River WMA: No report

Middle Cedar WMA: Frana reported no meeting has been scheduled.

Wapsipinicon WMA: Meeting will be held today at 1 pm.

**New Business:**

1. Annual Linn County Program Report FY23: Shoop provided FY23 Linn County Program Report Totals. Commissioners reviewed the information.
2. Commissioners Expense Forms – Shoop provided each Commissioner with their mileage report for signature and approval.
3. Discuss Policies and Priorities and Payment Limits: Schwartz and Shoop will provide a draft document for the April meeting. Commissioners discussed the current IFIP policy that limits funding for one 5” tile line and replaced it with the new policy below.
  - 24-60 Motion by Broulik to approve a new IFIP policy to fund 2 tile lines next to waterways, not to exceed 50% of cost. Seconded by Frana. Motion carried.
4. Review 5-year plan –1st Priority Goal – *Encourage and increase use of cover crops with public and private funding.*

Commissioners discussed current progress on the goal above and projects to work on:

- Posting signs on properties using Cover Crops.
  - Taking pictures of current fields this spring where Cover Crops are growing and posting on social media.
  - Continue partnership with city and county, and the possibility of a field day.
  - Increase postings on Facebook and website.
  - Encourage News Media to report on successful projects.
5. 2024 District Award Information was provided. Commissioners will need to provide nominations at the April meeting.

**Staff / Commissioners Reports**

Commissioners:

Frana provided a summary of the Regional Meeting held in Muscatine.

Horak provided an update on the Truax Drill. Repairs were needed and it is now ready for rental.

NRCS – Levi Schwartz, DC, reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> round of CSP applications. Three applications have been ranked; total amount is \$83,000.

Conservation Assistant – Jeanette Shoop, reported on fundraising ideas. Discussions will continue next month.

**Correspondence:** No additional correspondence was shared.

**Next meeting date**

The next regular meeting of the Linn Soil and Water Conservation District Commissioners will be held on Tuesday, April 9th at 8:45 AM.

**Adjourn**

- 24-61 Hosch moved to adjourn at 11:10 A.M. Second by Frana. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned.

Presented

Approved

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Secretary

Date

Chairperson

Date