

**MINUTES OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**COMMISSIONER'S & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**Monday March 1st, 2021**

**Meeting Called to Order**

The regular meeting of the Johnson County Soil and Water Conservation District was held via ZOOM due to Corona 19 virus. Meeting was called to order by Chair Jody Bailey at 12:32 PM. Present were Commissioners: Alex Schmidt, Jody Bailey, Travis Spevacek, Bonnie Riggan. Staff: Abby Beltz, John Rathbun, Jeff Vogel, Drew DeSmet, Amy Bouska, Marcy McBride. Other Guests: Nate Kilburg, Angie Sebastian, Eric Dirth.

**Late Agenda Additions**- Amy to discuss solar panel focus group with Cheryl Miller. Closed soil loss complaint session with Attorney General Eric Dirth.

**2021-020 Schmidt motion to enter closed session. Spevacek to second. Moved into closed session at 12:40 PM. Motion carried unanimously. See attached closed minutes.**

**2021-021 Schmidt motion to leave closed session at 1:10 PM. Spevacek to second. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Agenda Approval** - 2021-022 Schmidt motion to adopt agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes of February 1st 2021 meeting** – 2021-023 Schmidt motion to approve above minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report** –

**Approve to file January 2021 report pending audit**

**Funding Requests and Payments**

To pay the following: Marquardt Accounting \$120.00 (Feb payroll x 2) John Reimburse for NACD Conference \$50.00, CCWS brochures and postage up to \$2000.00, Preapprove John to attend IA Water conference \$75.00  
**2021-024 Schmidt motion to pay above expenses / preapprove funding requests. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Cost Share**- Approve to pay: Travis Curtin \$375, Joel Grabin \$2400, Lehman Brothers \$4000, Barry Lehman \$4000, Approve to fund: Travis Spevacek \$1600, Corey Johnson \$1600, Kyle Johnson \$1600. Approve to increase funding: Brian Douglas increase with supplemental to \$9270.31

**2021-025 Riggan motion to approve, extend, pay, or increase above cost share practices. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Discussion / Correspondence**

- Soil Loss Complaint- See miscellaneous action items
- Nate Kilburg – Will hold discussion immediately after March 1<sup>st</sup> SWCD meeting
- TNC- Olivia went to Ames for linc pass. Hopefully starting soon
- Marcy has applied for NACD priority funding grant. IDALS and SWCD will each match \$5,000. Will hear in late March or early April.
- Alex will continue working on IFIP and REAP ranking policy.
- Travis passed teacher of the year award nomination info to Mark Hepker for a Lynn Co teacher
- We had no sign ups for Summer incentives
- WQI opened 1<sup>st</sup> time No Till / Strip Till for this spring planting

- Amy heard from will Cheryl Miller about a new focus group for solar energy. Jody will contact her and ask if she's like to speak at the next Commissioner meeting.

**Miscellaneous Action Items- -**

**2021-026 Schmidt motion to mail certified letter to owner and tenant stating they must contact the district and chose a plan within seven days of receipt. If we do not hear from them district will move forward with an Administrative Order. Bailey, Riggan, Schmidt, Spevacek all voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.**

**2021-027 Schmidt motion to sign Nahant Marsh agreement for Urban equipment. Motion carried unanimously.**

**2021-028 Spevacek motion to approve letter of support for Alex Schmidt to be put on the Urban Agricultural Advisory Board at USDA. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Partners Report**

NRCS- Abby updated.

CDI- Alex reminded Spring Regional is this Wed. Annual meeting will be virtual.

NACD- No update.

Clear Creek Watershed- John updated.

Lower Cedar- Olivia was introduced at Lower Cedar Watershed quarterly meeting.

English River- Jody reported 1<sup>st</sup> quarter meeting was last week.

**Adjournment**

**The meeting adjourned at 2:31 PM**

**The next regular monthly meeting is Monday April 12th 2021 at 12:30 PM,**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED**

Secretary Marcy Y McBride

Chair Jody Bailey Digitally signed by Jody

Jody Bailey  
Date: 2021.04.12  
15:38:55 -05'00'

**MINUTES OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

**COMMISSIONER'S & ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**

**Monday March 1st, 2021**

**CLOSED SESSION FOR SOIL LOSS COMPLAINT**

**Concerning Joyce Rossie with Bessie Hagist Trust, and operator Dennis Mouglin**

**Entered closed session at 12:40 PM**

Present: Commissioners Jody Bailey, Alex Schmidt, Travis Spevacek, Bonnie Riggan. Staff: Abby Beltz, Marcy McBride. Others: Eric Dirth Attorney General, Angie Sebastian IDALS.

Will Meyers called in Eric Dirth. Farm is in process of being sold. Industrial on South side and Residential on the North. Dennis will be farming it for the immediate future, and he is tilling the HEL ground.

Eric: Chapter 161A Authority Subsection 47 says that the process is there is a complaint that 1. Damage is occurring. 2. It is causing damage on neighboring land. At that point the Commissioners confirm there is damage.

For it to be formalized as an Administrative Order, The Board Chair and Commissioners must state that it is in excess of the tolerable limits. Must identify alternatives that owner and operator can take to get within limits. Available cost share must be offered for alternatives. If they respond with a no or haven't started the project in 6 months.

Alex asked if we could require a conservation blind in the farm? Eric said we can only provide alternatives.

Travis asked if there is a new landowner and the same occupant, will that extend the date? Eric said that to state that the time of not more than 6 months must begin the project, and must be completed in one year.

Abby asked if we start the order now and the new owner doesn't want to go down the same path and wants to change it, will it extend the date with the new owner? Eric said no, the order will still be in place to do something. Option could change but the time frame would not.

Eric: When we are out of closed session, to begin and Administrative Order: State that limits are going over. Map. Available Cost Share. Practices.

Jody asked if we let the Feb 9<sup>th</sup> letter that was sent run its course (Where it was stated that the response was that nothing was going to be done due to sale of the land.

Travis asked if we have worked with tenant. Abby said that the notes show Joe Dixon tried to and nothing ever came from the operator and they had never been signed for in the past.

**2021-021 Schmidt motion to end closed session. Spevacek to second. Moved into open meeting 1:10 PM.**