

**Scott County Soil & Water Conservation District
Commissioner Meeting Minutes
December 10th, 2025**

Chairperson Chad Dexter called the meeting to order at 3:05pm. The meeting was held at The USDA Service Center, 8370 Hillandale Rd, Davenport. The following persons were present:

Commissioners: Chad Dexter, Christine Bolte, Lora Schmidt, Tracey Kuehl

Assistant Commissioners:

Staff: Rowan Kuechenmeister [CA], Kristen Fenderson [DC], Jessica Kline [SC]

Agenda

2025-87 Schmidt motioned to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing the February meeting date within the meeting times item. Bolte seconded and it was unanimous.

Minutes

2025-88 Kuehl motioned to approve the minutes as presented. Bolte seconded and it was unanimous.

Treasurer Report

2025-89 Schmidt motioned to approve the treasurer report as presented. Kuehl seconded and it was unanimous.

Cost Share

Kuechenmeister explained that the application for cover crop cost share for Eric Bortner was submitted under unusual circumstances; he had attempted to call the office to sign up for cover crop cost share, but the office had been closed due to the government shutdown. By the time his call was returned on November 13th he was still interested in cost share but wanted to go ahead and seed the cover crop before the SWCD could approve the application at the December meeting, citing concerns around getting a good establishment if he waited. It's program rules that seeding cannot take place prior to cost share application approval to qualify for cost share, but given that he theoretically could've applied and been approved at the November meeting if not for the government shutdown, Kuechenmeister accepted an application for the commissioners to decide on if an exception could be made. Kuechenmeister also noted that the typical IDALS WQI funding pool was already closed for the year, but was uncertain about if it would qualify under IFIP. **2025-90 Bolte motioned to approve funding Bortner's application due to the extenuating circumstances caused by the federal government shutdown through County funds, then to use District funds if rejected. Kuehl seconded and it was unanimous.**

2025-91 Schmidt motioned to approve amending application #123481, approve funding for #133537, and payment for all the following Payment Request applications. Kuehl seconded and it was unanimous.

Amendments

Name	FARMS#	Practice, Program	Original Obligation	Amended Obligation
Lorene Travers	123481	Windbreak, REAP F/NG	\$1,422.00	\$1,600.00

Funding Requests

Name	FARMS#	Practice, Program	Estimated Cost	Cost Share
Gregory Daniels	133537	Conservation Cover, REAP F/NG	\$1,956.20	\$1,467.15
*Eric Bortner		Cover Crops	\$502.80	\$167.60

Payment Requests

Name	FARMS#	Practice, Program	Estimated/Actual Cost	Obligated/Eligible Cost Share
Kelley Moses	127610	Cover Crops, WQI	\$1,589.40/\$1,589.40	\$529.80/\$529.80
Donald Hermiston	125415	Cover Crops, WQI	\$1,620.00/\$1,620.00	\$540.00/\$540.00
Jerry Kroeger	125402	Cover Crops, WQI	\$9,600.00/\$9,600.00	\$3,200.00/\$3,200.00
Kroeger Family Farms	131410	Cover Crops, WQI	\$9,600.00/\$9,600.00	\$3,200.00/\$3,200.00
David Oberbroeckling	125405	Cover Crops, WQI	\$9,600.00/\$9,600.00	\$3,200.00/\$3,200.00
4RC Cattle Co	125409	Cover Crops, WQI	\$1,740.00/\$1,740.00	\$580.00/\$580.00
Dennis Helkenn	125421	Cover Crops, WQI	\$9,157.80/\$9,157.80	\$3,052.60/\$6,052.60
Greg Paustian	129742	Cover Crops, WQI	\$9,600.00/\$9,600.00	\$3,200.00/\$3,200.00
Claussen Brothers	129751	Cover Crops, WQI	\$5,113.80/\$5,106.00	\$2,556.90/\$2,553.00
Golinghorst Inc	133115	Cover Crops, WQI	\$8,833.20/\$8,250.00	\$2,944.40/\$2,750.00
Kevin Holst	127866	Cover Crops, WQI	\$9,600.00/\$9,600.00	\$3,200.00/\$3,200.00
Martin Costello	128514	Cover Crops, WQI	\$8,709.60/\$3,625.80	\$2,903.20/\$1,208.60
Rochau Farms Inc	129749	Cover Crops, WQI	\$9,600.00/\$9,600.00	\$4,800.00/\$4,800.00
KDLM Inc	125408	Cover Crops, WQI	\$9,000.00/\$8,400.00	\$3,000.00/\$2,800.00
Tony Knobbe	125423	Cover Crops, WQI	\$3,600.00/\$2,280.00	\$1,800.00/\$1,140.00
Adam Rochau	129745	Cover Crops, WQI	\$4,860.00/\$4,860.00	\$2,430.00/\$2,430.00
Rodney Little	133201	Cover Crops, WQI	\$1,800.00/\$1,800.00	\$600.00/\$600.00

Old Business

- Fenderson gave the commissioners an update on the Martin/Schocker soil loss complaint. An NRCS engineer visited the Schocker's tract of concern and deduced the biggest issue was tiling between the neighbors and recommended they repair and connect it between the properties. They completed that work independently of NRCS and the SWCD during the federal government shutdown. The only other area of concern was exposed soil along a patch of the waterway on the uphill tract, which Sproat and Fenderson recommended the Schockers reseed this coming spring. Fenderson told them that cost share would be offered for that seeding, but the landowners relayed that it was such a small spot they'd rather just do it independently too. With the tile work being identified as the primary issue but already dealt with at this point, Fenderson and Kuechenmeister suggested that a formal Administrative Order may not be necessary and that the complaint could be resolved with a Voluntary Agreement to re-seed the waterway. **2025-92 Schmidt motioned to mail a notice of a voluntary agreement being met to all involved parties, with resolution of the complaint being contingent on the waterway being re-seeded. Bolte seconded and it was unanimous.**
- Kuechenmeister relayed to the commissioners that the 780 who had been hired decided to not proceed with accepting the position during the federal government shutdown. She was scheduled to be onboard on October 3rd, but the shutdown began October 1st and onboarding had to be indefinitely delayed until the shutdown ended. Kuechenmeister inquired on advertising the 780 position again, along with the internship and scholarships. Fenderson noted that may be difficult to fit both a 780 and intern simultaneously, and given that there's only 6 months left for a 780 to work, not counting the time to complete a federal background check and onboard, with no current leads, it may be better to focus on getting an intern. The commissioners discussed where to advertise the internship and scholarships, mentioning the IA Farm Bureau Spokesman, Ambrose, Augustana, and reaching out to county high schools. They also discussed what scholarship awards to offer in the ads on a district level. **2025-93 Kuehl motioned to offer two \$1,000 scholarships on the district level for 2026. Bolte seconded and it was unanimous.**

- Discussion on meeting times resumed from the November meeting. The commissioners discussed whether to continue having the meetings at 3:00pm or back to 4:00pm. Kuehl also brought up deciding an earlier meeting date for February in order to get slough bill applications approved and sent to the Assessor's office as early as possible. General consensus was to meet at 3:00pm just for January and February due to it getting dark so early and to meet in the first week of February. **2025-94 Kuehl motioned to meet at 3:00pm for the January and February district meetings and to hold the February meeting on the 4th instead of the standard 2nd Wednesday of the month. Bolte seconded and it was unanimous.**
- Kuechenmeister reported on progress for conducting a tree sale in spring of 2026. After speaking with the CA in Muscatine that Jan had done joint orders with before, they both felt it'd make sense to try a different vendor. Kuechenmeister suggested Alpha Nurseries, a vendor that advertised working with many other SWCD's among multiple states in providing stock for tree sale fundraisers. Kuechenmeister also looked at past sales to see which species did not sell as well to shorten the list of species as the commissioners had suggested at the last meeting. After some discussion, the list came down to lilac, red osier dogwood, American hazelnut, wild plum, serviceberry, red maple, red oak, white spruce, and white pine. It was also noted that the district still needed to apply for a nursery dealers license. There is also an order reduction deadline of March 15th before the vendor would charge a fee on reducing any reserved stock pre-orders, so the customer ordering period would need a deadline before then, leaving little time to advertise.
- The Scott County Webmaster suggested that the commissioners consider paying for a few years of the domain rights at a time. It can be prepaid for up to 9 years and would remain the same price, there is not a discount for paying multiple years at a time. The Webmaster had recommended paying around 3 years. It would mostly be to save time/effort on paying each year. The commissioners discussed whether it'd be worthwhile, primarily concerned with how little the website had been used in prior years. **2025-95 Bolte motioned to pay for a single year of the domain rights as usual. Kuehl seconded and it was unanimous.**

New Business

- First Central Bank sent Maturity Notices for two CDs, set to auto-renew if no contact is made by 12/20/2025. The notice states that the interest rate and annual percentage yield would not be determined until 12/10/2025, so it would not inherently be renewed at the current rate of 4.12%. Kuehl called the bank during the meeting to find out what the interest rate would be. She was given a rate of 3.85% for 8 months or 3.5% for 16 months. **2025-96 Kuehl motioned to renew the CDs at the 3.85% for 8 months rate. Schmidt seconded and it was unanimous.**
- NACD sent a letter for FY2026 dues. The commissioners decided to table it for the January meeting to check what amount was paid the prior year.
- The Water Rocks! organization sent a solicitation for a donation. **2025-97 Kuehl motioned to donate \$100 to Water Rocks! and Bolte seconded. It was unanimous.**
- Kuehl attended a LCWMA meeting and spoke on her experience. She also provided their FY25 Annual Report and slides from a presentation on the organization. She expressed interest in continuing to attend the meetings as a representative of the SWCD. **2025-98 Schmidt motioned to approve Kuehl to represent the SWCD at LCWMA meetings. Bolte seconded and it was unanimous.**
- Plantskydd sent a notice that prices would be getting raised in 2026 and to order product by the end of December for current pricing. The district had discontinued sales for Plantskydd products in 2023, but it was suggested to Kuechenmeister that it could be resumed if desirable. It was decided to not place an order at this time.
- Rich Stewart with the Rock Island SWCD informed Kuechenmeister of the 2026 Annual QC Stormwater Conference and provided information for the Scott SWCD to potentially be an exhibitor or sponsor. The commissioners discussed concerns around having materials ready for exhibiting and if it would be worthwhile. It was decided that anyone could go as a regular attendee (ticket price \$45) to

gauge if the SWCD may want to be an exhibitor in 2027. **2025-99 Bolte motioned for the SWCD to pay the general admission fee for any member to attend the 2026 QC Stormwater Conference. Schmidt seconded and it was unanimous.**

- Kuechenmeister investigated a radio PSA that Kuehl had heard discouraging “recreational tilling” sponsored by the Linn County SWCD. The SWCD proposed the idea and it was a collaborative effort between Linn County Soil Health Dept writing scripts and the Linn County Communications Dept working with WMT on record and interfacing. WMT runs the PSA for free when there is empty space, but space could be paid for to have scheduled run times. There could be potential for reaching out to WMT and/or other local radio stations to run PSAs.

Staff Report

NRCS – Trying to make payments despite system being backed up from the shutdown and waiting on announcements regarding programs for 2026.

IDALS – A notice was sent out the IDALS will not be recalling IFIP and REAP funds this year to reallocate like usual, districts will just keep the funds and can request supplemental as needed through winter and spring.

Miscellaneous

- Next LCWMA meeting will be January 10th

The next Commissioner meeting will be held Wednesday, January 14th at the Scott County USDA Service Center.

2025-100 With no further business to address, Bolte motioned to adjourn the meeting at 4:34pm. Schmidt seconded and it was unanimous.

Submitted by:



Rowan Kuechenmeister, CA

Approved by:



Chad Dexter, Chair