

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

Chairperson Chad Dexter called the meeting to order at 4:02pm. The meeting was held at the Scott County USDA Service Center. 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

2025-67 Kuehl motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Bolte seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Heartland Co-Op

Emery Davis with Heartland Co-op introduced himself to the commissioners. He provided a hand-out and spoke on his work facilitating the Batch-And-Build project for saturated buffers and bioreactors, along with conducting education field days on the practices. There is already a Batch-And-Build of 40 projects among multiple counties set for construction in 2026. The Co-op is currently seeking grant funding and Davis brought two maintenance agreements for the commissioners to sign.

Minutes

2025-68 Schmidt motioned to approve August's meeting minutes as presented. Bolte seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Treasurer Report

2025-69 Bolte motioned to approve July's treasurer report as provided. Schmidt seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Cost Share

2025-70 Kuehl motioned to approve the following application for payment. Bolte seconded and it was unanimously approved.

Name	FARMS#	Practice, Program	Estimated/Actual Cost	Cost Share
Norma Jean Adams	125860	SQR, WPF	\$3,416.98/\$3,416.98	\$1,708.49

Old Business

- Fenderson updated the commissioners on the follow-up visit she did at Steve Martin's property with a NRCS engineer. There is concern around workload for engineering projects, but they did get a preliminary idea of what work ought to be done to help mitigate the sedimentation issues beyond what may need to be done on the adjoining property. The inspection of the neighboring property had been rescheduled to Sept 29th. Kuehl and Bolte are anticipated to conduct that investigation.
- The Pollinator Postcards were generally a success; 4 field appointments have taken place with 3 applications for cost share, plus several additional phone calls from people expressing interest, but a roadblock arose from the maintenance period. For the state's funding pool that gives 75% cost share, conservation cover has a maintenance period of 20 years. All of the applicants decided to cancel their projects after learning of this. Federal cost share on native plantings under NRCS are generally only under contract for 5 years, and FSA's CRP program is usually 10-15 years, with most being 10 for native prairie plantings. Even under a different state funding pool, 50% cost share on urban native

landscaping, the maintenance period for prairie is only 10 years. Fenderson proposed that the commissioners consider writing a resolution about the maintenance period to submit to CDI in 2026 to get it lowered, hopefully causing less apprehension from prospective clients and get more natives planted in the county. **2025-71 Kuehl motioned that the district write a resolution requesting the maintenance agreement for establishing natives be lowered from 20yrs. Bolte seconded and it was unanimous.**

New Business

- Kline described issues going on with two Soil Quality Restoration projects and how they were resolved with the area Urban Conservationist, Amy Bouska. Kline, Fenderson, and Kuechenmeister met with Bouska on September 3rd to also discuss Urban outreach in Scott County. Bouska recommended seeking out businesses and organizations with relatively large sections of turf on their building properties that we may be able to sell on lowering mowing maintenance, especially anywhere that may have a sustainability department or similar priorities. While the REAP P funds allocated from IDALS for Urban practices can't be utilized by government entities, there is an additional funding pool that is quite large that can be used by government/school/public entities. The commissioners discussed potential options for outreach, such as hospitals, the Scott Community College, Bett Plex, roadside areas in Bettendorf, and an electrical plant in the process of development. Concerns around the Urban Contractors List being sparse was also discussed. Dexter talked about the contractor meetings of previous years and the commissioners discussed concerns around trying to solicit more contractors for the list.
- Kuechenmeister presented the FY25 Annual Financial Review Report, audited by Schmidt and Bolte. **2025-72 Kuehl motioned to approve the FY25 Annual Financial Review Report. Schmidt seconded and it was unanimously approved.**

Staff Report

- Fenderson reported that the deadline for the next round of EQIP and CSP applications is October 10th. RCPP applications have been ranked and approved for obligation, now it's a matter of getting contracts signed.
- Kuechenmeister reported that sign-ups for WQI cover crops had been announced to close 2 days ahead of time, just like the sudden cut-off from last year, then were re-opened to a final deadline of September 18th after IDALS received substantial complaints. Scott County already has the majority of previous users signed up, in addition to many new users, so there's unlikely to be many more sign-ups.

Miscellaneous

- Another field day is in the works for November with the Paustians, but not many details are set.

The next Commissioner meeting will be held Wednesday, October 8th, 2025 at 4:00pm at the Scott County USDA Service Center.

2025-73 With no further business to discuss, Bolte motioned to adjourn the meeting at 5:13pm. Schmidt seconded and it was unanimous.

Submitted by:



Rowan Kuechenmeister, CA

Approved by:



Chad Dexter, Chair