

**Soil and Water Committee
Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chairman Koch at 9:51 a.m.

Members present for roll call were Owen DuCharme, Kate Krachey, and Chad Sime. Mary Kuhn was absent. Members of the community were also present.

Roll call. Motion by Sime, second by Krachey to approve July 8, 2025, minutes as emailed. Motion carried unanimously.

Land Conservationist report, Dave Troester: Troester stated he has issued a cell tower permit for an upgrade to a tower. Troester informed the committee that he has been working on the Fair Conservation Awards ceremony being held on Thursday in the Friends of the Fair tent. There was a discussion on fair procedures and issues, DuCharme stated he will talk with her. Troester informed the committee that new this year at the fair we will be displaying the winning posters. Troester continued by reminding the committee that Clean Sweep will be October 17 at the Highway shop near Seneca, same blueprint as past years and that he is still working on presenters for Youth Conservation Day which is September 18. Troester informed the committee he received a call from a farmer on farmland preservation whose tax credit was rejected after their father passed away, he is assisting the farmer.

Troester continued by stating he received two Livestock Siting permit applications on July 24, adding he has 45 days to determine if it's a complete application. These two applications will require a public hearing. Landowner is looking to build two hog buildings on separate parcels. There was discussion on the ordinance. Troester informed the committee that the ordinance is clear and that there are definitions on adjacent parcels – state definition, any manure spread on the same ground it must be from the same operation, sharing equipment – same application. Number of animals, 999.6 animals keep them under the DNR permit requirement. Some types of livestock take longer to be ready for sale/butcher so turnover at a facility is slower. DuCharme asked if the businesses are connected to AV Roth's operation. Troester reported Roth had spread manure on Gruber acres in his nutrient management plan in the past, but Troester confirmed it is not in the Roth plan at this time. Copies of the blueprints were sent to the engineer at DATCP for full site review. Troester added that an odor score does not need to be conducted for one of the facility as it is more than 2500' from the nearest home. Troester added that Zoning has been on site for the soil evaluation for a POWTS for the showers and bathrooms for staff.

Jahnke thanked the committee for the discussion regarding the permit applications, as reasonable, it is his understanding that it is public record as soon as you receive it. Jahnke would like to see the application materials before it is deemed complete, stating he has had concerns in the past. Jahnke stated a digital format is best for him.

Jahnke talked to the landowner when they were on the Roth Nutrient Management plan as spreadable land. Jahnke added this is a farrow to finish operation, animals weighing approximately 150 lbs. Troester added there are two permits, the manure storage agreement has a 30-day approval process time, if not approved in 30 days, it is deemed approved. Livestock siting permits are separate and have the 45-day approval time. Bunting will send Kelly Neitzel, DATCP Engineer, an email to look at the storage permit first. It was added that the landowner will need a signed lease agreement for land they don't own.

Jahnke continued by updating the committee on the DAWS project. Crawford Stewardship Project is hoping to receive funding. A discussion on details of the collaboration with Vernon, Crawford, and Richland counties was held. Jahnke added that he is actively working on the EAP, Amy Fenn signed the contract last week. Jahnke stated there is a learning curve, in general very exciting, uncertain on if/when we will receive the grant.

Troester added he sold the old LCD truck online for \$3,180.

Motion by Krachey, second by DuCharme to approve vouchers as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Land & Water Projects, Travis Bunting: Bunting stated he is waiting on the side windows for the new truck topper. Bunting continued by updating the committee on projects stating the NRCS has one project left. Adding that project got started last week and that everything must be designed by October. Bunting stated there is a lot on the books that didn't get funded. Bunting stated there were three projects completed in July, the final four recently completed, hitting the prime seeding window for the fall. Things are growing and looking good. Some washing but not terrible.

NRCS: no report

Forester: no report

UW Extension, DuCharme reported that Sara is working strongly on Agri tourism. Lots of meetings. Fair next week, need volunteer help.

FSA, Sime: the next meeting will be Thursday, a program that was linked to federal - if you qualified for crop insurance a prefilled paperwork was mailed out to you for a reimbursement amount and interest. Sime added that there have been some changes to CRP.

Public comment:

Gillian Pomplun, Independent Scout: Pomplun requested an electronic copy of the Gruber permits. Number for reference number.

The next meeting will be Thursday 8/21 at the Fairgrounds. Tuesday, September 9 will be the next regular meeting.

Motion by Sime, second by DuCharme to adjourn at 10:40.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Amy Opprieht".

Amy Opprieht
Administrative Assistant