Board Members Present: Rick Sanders, Bob Kindred, Steve Carlson, Harold Hove, Jean Eells, Selden Spencer, Tanner Scheuermann

Also Present: Penny Brown Huber (Prairie Rivers of Iowa), Kayla Bergman (PRI), Jim Richardson (HCCB and PRI), Mike Brandrup (PRI), Brian Lammers (Hamilton County Conservation Board), Tracy Warner (City of Ames)

Field Tour: Meet at Lost Lake Farms at 2366 295th St Jewell, IA (~45 minutes)
Group toured intense rotation grazing dairy farm using multiple conservation practices.

Welcome

Jean Eells

Water Testing

Rick Sanders, Bob Kindred, Tracy Warner, Steve Carlson, and Tanner Scheuermann brought water samples from various creeks in the watershed and tested their water using the Retain kit testing strips.

Review and Approve Agenda

Rick Sanders made a motion to approve the agenda and Steve Carlson seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Review and Approve April 19, 2018 Minutes

Rick Sanders made a motion to approve the minutes from April 19th, 2018 meeting of the board. Selden Spencer seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Introductions and Board Member Updates

WMA Board Members

Question: What have you done in your jurisdictional area related to water quality in the last 3-6 months?

- **Harold Hove**- Hove spoke about the recent flooding of citizen’s basements in the community leading to wellhead improvements, which should last for 10-12 years.
- **Rick Sanders**- Sanders shared that the watershed assessments have been received and a joint meeting between Story County Conservation and Story County Board of Supervisors to unveil the plan was held. He explained that the plan will not be able to solve all of the problems in the
watershed, but is a great start to the implementation in watershed work in Story County. Sanders also announced that Story County approved being a part of the Headwaters of the South Skunk WMA.

- **Bob Kindred**- Kindred spoke about the Ames approving the Headwaters of the South Skunk River WMA 28E. There will be a workshop with city council August 21st, 2018 to understand any issues there may be and where the priorities are. Prairie Rivers of Iowa will present at the workshop.

- **Selden Spencer**- Spencer explained that they have the funds to get the Water Rocks! program in Story County schools. Water Rocks! Also had a booth at the Story County fair.

- **Steve Carlson**- Carlson told the group that the district has an employee they share with Greene County who focuses on Walnut Creek Watershed. The group has a soil health trailer that focuses on pollinators and soil health. Tracy asked about using soil health trailer for Ecofair in Ames next year.

- **Tanner Scheuermann**- Scheuermann has spent the past eight months trying to get Boone County Supervisors more heavily involved with Squaw Creek WMA. Boone County Conservation acquired 25 acres in the Beaver Creek Watershed and will be managing the land starting this year.

- **Tracy Warner**- Warner with the City of Ames updated the group on city councils recent decisions, which included regulations to developers to properly deal with runoff and storm water. She also mentioned there have been landowners concerned with recent floods. City hall in Ames has had buffalo grass and soil quality restoration, both of which will be good for water quality. Ames’ capital improvements project include a FEMA project on the water main to protect it with riprap and native vegetation at Squaw Creek. These will both help with erosion and will benefit water quality. Another project related to water quality is the South Skunk River bank failure; which will be mitigated with bendway weirs and stopways. They did a mussel survey and relocation for this project to happen. The final project Warner updated the group on was the storm water wet land that is going in on the big lot south of 5th Street as part of the Grand Ave extension project, in which the city was awarded a $100,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship to complete.

- **Jean Eells**- Eells updated the group on the successful tour that afternoon for Hamilton County Conservation representatives, Hamilton County Soil & Water Conservation District, and Hamilton County Board of Supervisors. She also discussed the possibility of a saturated buffer demonstration site the Hamilton County Conservation Board in interested in pursuing.

**Old Business:**

- **Prairie Rivers of Iowa Watersheds Program Update** Kayla Bergman, PRI
  - Squaw Creek Water Quality Initiative
    Bergman has been working on getting landowners to sign up for conservation practices by sending out mailings to landowners in the area and will also be doing radio advertisements in August.
  - Field Day Recap
    Bergman reported that Prairie Rivers of Iowa held a field day on Tuesday and had a total of 40 attendees and some great discussion on denitrifying bioreactors. Some highlights from the event
included introduction to Prairie Rivers of Iowa and to Iowa Learning Farms and their conservation station. The main topic was edge-of-field practices and how denitrifying bioreactors work. Everyone got to see one in action and heard from an engineer who designs bioreactors and a landowner who currently has one. There has been one person who is ready to move forward in getting a bioreactor.

- One Water Summit Overview
Bergman and Brown-Huber attended the One Water Summit in Minneapolis to learn from people across the nation working on water related issues, including water scarcity, equity, quality, and wastewater issues. Brown-Huber recommended that members of the group consider attending the conference next year, which will be in Austin, Texas in September.

- Water Quality Monitoring
Bergman updated the group on the current results-to-date from the water quality monitor the City of Ames has on Squaw Creek at Lincoln Way in Ames. She also mentioned that Prairie Rivers of Iowa will be working with partners this year to get a monitoring plan in place to develop the monitoring program to an advanced stage.

New Business:
- Election of Officers
  Jean Eells
  Rick Sanders nominated Jean Eells for Chair position. Selden Spencer seconded the nomination. Motion anonymously approved.
  Rick Sanders volunteered for Vice-Chair. Motion was anonymously approved.
  Steve Carlson volunteered as the Secretary/Reporter. Motion was anonymously approved.

- Transitioning to Headwaters of South Skunk River Watershed
  Penny Brown-Huber, PRI
  Brown-Huber explained the importance of thinking of and working in a larger system, called the Headwaters of the South Skunk River Watershed. This includes Squaw Creek, Keigley-Branch Watershed, Headwaters of South Skunk River, and Drainage Ditch 71. This will created a closed system we will be able to show progress on nutrient reduction. Prairie Rivers of Iowa has now started working with the Conservation Fund and hope to receive regional and national recognition for the work that is being done in the Headwaters of the South Skunk River Watershed. A project that will need to be started in the next couple of years is working with livestock producers to manage the bacteria levels in the waterways. Brown-Huber explained that we are just at the beginning of this work, but it looks promising if we all work together.

  Spencer asks what effect the area cattle had on water quality. Bergman responded with information that the Story County watershed assessment has numbers on this very topic, which is posted online. Sanders responded that Hickory Grove lake had a reduction of E.coli (bacteria) after they worked with livestock producers and landowners to update their septic systems.

Adjournment
Spencer motioned to adjourn the meeting. Sanders seconded. 5:27 P.M.

Next Meeting: October 18, 4PM – Gilbert City Hall