



## **Board Spring Quarterly Meeting**

Thursday April 21, 2016

1:30-4:00PM

Ames City Hall, Room 135

### **Board Members:**

Present: Paul Toot, Erv Klaas, Ann Campbell, Bob Kindred, Tom Foster, Rosie Wurpts (substitute for Kevin Griggs), Mark Scott

Absent: Sonia Dodd, Suzie Moore, David Young, Rachel Cahill, Randy Baker, Mike Nepereny

Quorum present: Yes

Others present: Penny Brown Huber, Executive Director Prairie Rivers of Iowa  
Hanna Bates, Watershed Coordinator Prairie Rivers of Iowa  
Annie Glawe, Natural Resources Educator Prairie Rivers of Iowa  
Christina Murphy, Assistant Director Ames Water & Pollution Control

### **Proceedings:**

- Meeting called to order at 1:35p.m. by Chair, Paul Toot
- Review and approve minutes
- Update by the Watershed Coordinator
  - Prairie Rivers staff began regular meetings with City of Ames Water and Pollution Control Department to coordinate work
  - State of Iowa received the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Grant (\$10mil.) – Squaw Creek will receive EQIP practice funding
  - Coordinating with county NRCS offices to coordinate work and reporting
  - Tim Smith, Eagle Grove farmer and Champion of Change for Sustainable Climate-Smart Agriculture, joined Prairie Rivers of Iowa Board and Conservation Practice Review Committee
  - IDALS held annual review for year 1 work for the Water Quality Initiative Demonstration Project funding
  - Bates gave presentations at:
    - West Central/Landus Winter meeting
    - Iowa Corn

- District 5 Committee
  - United Suppliers Winter Grower Event
  - Iowa Soybean Association Research Conference
  - Iowa Water Conference
  - Practical Farmers of Iowa Conference
- Bates discussed water quality monitor installation in Squaw Creek Watershed and East Indian Creek Watershed
- Bates discussed current status of conservation practice implementation in Squaw Creek:
  - Cover Crops: 659.52 acres
  - Strip Till: 297.32 acres
  - Extended Rotations: 10.5 acres
  - Bioreactor: 1
- Upcoming outreach events for the Watersheds and Waterways Program for Squaw Creek:
  - Prairie Rivers of Iowa Field Day 2016
  - Date: July 23 Noon-3PM
  - Location: Al Lingren Farm  
526 H. Ave  
Ogden, IA
  - Speakers:
    - Bill Northey, IA Secretary of Agriculture
    - Al Lingren, Farmer and Boone SWCD Commissioner
    - Mark Johnson, Field Agronomist, ISU Extension
- Update from Natural Resources Educator
  - Working with the Water and Climate Change group from ISU and meeting with the Squaw Creek Watershed Citizen-Scientist Team.
  - Watershed Tour: This event was part of the watershed team program. We visited the new wetland on ISU campus with a facilities planning and management staff person, a CREP wetland with ISU Professor Bill Crumpton, and a buffer area by a stream bridge where we saw a water flow and stream bottom monitoring device from an ISU graduate student.
  - Becoming a Master River Steward Program Facilitator
  - The educator will partner with Story County Conservation to plan two Master River Steward Programs over the next 3 years.
  - Topics of the program include: watersheds, river form and function, navigating Iowa's waters and river wildlife, river chemistry and monitoring, agricultural practices, policies and effects on rivers, stream riparian zone restoration and impacts on fish and wildlife, and a required project for all participants.

- The idea of the Master River Steward Program is to create individuals in the community who are more knowledgeable about Iowa rivers and all aspects of those ecosystems. This will create more advocates and people who can inform others across the state.
- Squaw Creek Watershed Steward sign updates
- Pollinator Plantings with local schools
  - Erv Klaas asked if we had been working with the NRCS Pollinator Program.
  - This is something we want to develop further and keep identifying potential landowners who would like to put in pollinator plots that can match our goals of installing perennials in the watershed.
- Presenting at community events
  - League of Women Voters, ISU Sustainability Symposium and Sustainapalooza, Ames Eco-Fair (soil cups), PFI Conference, and participating in the Iowa Learning Farms Leadership Circle
- Presentation from City of Ames Water & Pollution Control Department
  - Presented by Christina Murphy, Assistant Director Ames Water & Pollution Control
  - Murphy presented on Squaw Creek Watershed water quality monitoring that started in March 2016
  - The monitor is located at University Ave. and Lincoln Way Ave. in Ames, Iowa
  - Murphy outlined what testing consists of in the City of Ames labs and how the monitor functions for regular sampling and storm event sampling
  - Murphy also showed the board the Iowa Water Quality Information System website that enables the public to see water quality data for the State of Iowa that includes:
    - Nitrate levels
    - Chlorophyll
    - Dissolved oxygen concentrations
    - Discharge rates
    - Temperature
- Update from Prairie Rivers of Iowa
  - Presented by Penny Brown Huber, Executive Director Prairie Rivers of Iowa and Hanna Bates Watershed Coordinator Prairie Rivers of Iowa
  - Brown and Bates discussed an upcoming opportunity to apply for the NRCS national Conservation Innovation Grant. The Prairie Rivers of Iowa proposal seeks to:
    - Redevelop the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority board into a consolidated WMA that incorporates Keigley Branch Watershed
    - Update the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Plan

- Create a watershed management plan for Keigley Branch Watershed
  - Prairie Rivers of Iowa seeks to develop plans for the northern HUC-10 watersheds in the South Skunk Watershed (HUC-8) so that measurable improvements may be shown by clustering watersheds together under one framework when appropriate
  - Klaas discussed how these watersheds are in a priority area and would be favorable for funding opportunities
  - Klaas asked why not include East Indian Creek, Brown responded by stating that incorporating Keigley Branch would capture municipalities already in the SCWMA and create a streamlined effort towards community outreach
  - Toot questioned as to whether or not there would be a problem with the current board expanding
  - Foster responded that Hamilton County Conservation could be a partner in the WMA reformation process
  - Toot agreed to look into the previous grant that funded the formation of the WMA and current bylaws to expand into a consolidated WMA
- Adjournment
    - The meeting adjourned at 3:15PM
    - Next meeting set for July – date to be determined by a Doodle Poll
    - Minutes submitted by Hanna Bates