



Board Summer Quarterly Meeting

Thursday July 13, 2016

4:00-5:30PM

Multipurpose Room, Gilbert City Hall

Board Members:

Present: Tom Foster, Ann Campbell, Sonia Dodd, Rick Sanders, Jean Eells, Kevin Griggs, Erv Klaas

Absent: Suzie Moore, Mark Scott, Randy Baker, Mike Nepreney

Quorum present: Yes

Others present: Penny Brown Huber, Hanna Bates, Annie Fangman, John Dunn, Linda Murken, Lauris Olson, LeAnn Harter

Proceedings:

- Meeting called to order at 4:10PM by Ann Campbell
- Penny Brown Huber provided a review of the Squaw Creek Watershed mission as well as spoke a few words in remembrance of Paul Toot, the former Chair of the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority Board. Brown Huber also reviewed the background of the management plan formation
- Harter provided an overview of the history of the watershed management authority and the drafting of the management plan. Harter also outlined the involvement of Emmons and Olivier Resources' involvement in the plan over the 1.5 year development period of the plan
- Sanders noted he was impressed by the water quality work in the Squaw Creek Watershed and how it serves as a model for others to utilize
- Campbell moved to the next item of the agenda to approve the minutes from the last meeting. Griggs moved to approve the minutes, Klaas seconded. Approval passed.
- Campbell moved to the next item of the agenda to elect a new chair for the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority Board. Foster volunteered to run for president. Sanders moved to have a unanimous vote for president. Eells seconded. Foster is elected to chair with none opposed.
- Foster proceeded to lead the meeting.

- Brown Huber provided a review of the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority Board bylaws and asked the board how they would like the board to proceed in the future. Brown Huber asked the board to consider broadening the scope of the management authority board.
- Sanders discussed work in Four-Mile Creek and the consolidation of the watershed management authority board. Sanders asked for more detail regarding funding and work in the Squaw Creek Watershed
- Brown Huber provided an explanation of the current funding sources and work in the watershed. Brown Huber indicated watersheds need capacity building for staff and outreach
- Klaas provided a review of the history of watershed work in Iowa noting the Squaw Creek Watershed is one of the larger ones receiving work
- Sanders questioned what would be the best way in watershed management in terms of scale
- Klaas indicated the watershed level HUC-10 is the best approach
- Eells discussed the challenges of the linear nature of watersheds in coordinating work
- Sanders discussed looking at the holistic impacts of the watershed approach in Story County. Sanders notes the plan is a great model, but wants to know how it can move forward
- Klaas noted the Cedar River watershed is an alternative model that involves major agency partners
- Brown Huber discussed a watershed approach that would combine four watersheds at the top of the South Skunk watershed in terms of water quality work so that results could be evidenced
- Sanders questioned the ability for the 28E agreement to be adjusted to include more areas.
- Brown Huber noted that the current Squaw Creek Management Authority Board would need to adjust their bylaws
- Kindred asked if this would be an expansion or a new authority board
- Sanders noted that Prairie Rivers of Iowa that would serve as a foundation between the watersheds
- Eells noted that it would be stronger to function as one entity rather than keep the authorities separate
- Brown Huber noted that watershed management authority support would be needed to move forward
- Kindred stated that the board would need to look into prior funding to support this change and wanted to insure that thorough research was conducted before moving forward
- Sanders indicated support for the expansion of the authority board due to its unique structure, but wanted to make sure it was done right

- Foster wanted further investigation into the legal activity of expanding the authority board
- Sanders moved that Brown Huber and Harter should look into further details in regards to this to find a direction and options to adopt Keigley Branch into the authority board. Eells seconded. Motion passed.
- Foster stated the board should vote to replace the vice chair, secretary, and treasurer position for the board
- Foster nominated Campbell to serve as vice chair. Campbell accepted the nomination.
- Board opted to vote by unanimous consent. Eells seconded. Voting Campbell as vice chair passed.
- Sanders nominated Klaas as secretary and treasurer for the board. Klaas accepted on a temporary basis due to health
- Sanders moved for a vote, Campbell seconded. Voting Klaas as secretary and treasurer passed.
- Eells then described the recent awarding of the Iowa Conservation Collaboration grant to conduct work to meet with female landowners in Iowa to develop conservation plans for their farm ground. Board was receptive to the project. Klaas stated that soil health is becoming more important in the discussions on land management.
- Next item to discuss on the agenda is the upcoming field day organized by Prairie Rivers of Iowa. Bates discussed the theme and topics to be addressed at the field day as well as what soil health tools and equipment people will see.
- Klaas mentioned that the SWCD used to purchase equipment that farmers could use or rent. He said this is a good program for helping farmers implement practices.
- Fangman proceeded to discuss informational displays and signage she has been developing with the watershed program at Prairie Rivers of Iowa. Board provided input on where signs could be placed around the watershed – both outdoors and in public educational spaces. The board requested she research right-of-way rules for distance and reflectivity before producing and distributing signs. Dodd also stated that Gilbert would put up posters if PRI printed them. Others noted that they would hang posters as well.
- Foster noted the importance of including the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority board logos
- Bates then asked the board to participate in an outreach campaign on social media and in print materials that would promote the authority board following the meeting
- Foster adjourned the meeting at 5:21PM
- Next meeting date: October 13, 2016 4-5:30PM, Gilbert City Hall