



Minutes
Board Spring Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, July 13, 2017

4:00-5:30 PM
Research Park, CORE Facility
1805 Collaboration Place, Board Room, Ames

Board Members Present: Ann Campbell, Sonia Dodd, Rick Sanders, Mark Scott, Kevin Griggs

Absent: Jean Eells, Mark Scott, and Harold Hove

Quorum is met

Also Present: Pat Conrad (EOR), Bob Kindred (substitute, City of Ames), Mike Cox (Story County Conservation), Kayla Hasper, Aimee Burch, Daniel Haug, Penny Brown Huber (Prairie Rivers of Iowa), LeAnn Harter (Story County), and Cindy Hildebrand (citizen, Story County)

PROCEEDINGS

Tour of Tedesco Environmental Learning Coordinator

**Mike Cox, Story Co.
Conservation Director**

- Mike Cox gave an overview of Story County's newest park; the Tedesco Learning Corridor via PowerPoint presentation. Mike outlined the phases of the project, which began this past spring, and will continue through the fall and into next year. Other notes made by Mike during the presentation:
 - The park is a unique partnership between Iowa State University Research Park (ISURP), Story County Conservation Board, and the Story County Board of Supervisors for the development of a community green space
 - The park is 37 acres in size and will include trails, prairie, oak savanna, wetland, forest, riffles, an oxbow, ponds, a saturated buffer, interpretation, and many educational spaces
 - The park was designed with intended use from the Iowa State University Research Park employees, area schools and educational groups, and the general public
 - The park is not only to promote the use of outdoor spaces in the county; it is also a win for water quality for the tributary stream for Worle Creek (and eventually Squaw Creek)
 - The conservation board is also working with future buildings in the research park (including a daycare and McFarland Clinic) to develop with natural resources and water quality in mind

Rick Sanders added a note regarding the funding that is coming from the Board of Supervisors for this project. He also noted that the trail system in this park will connect to the greater trail system in the county and will eventually connect to the Heart of Iowa/High Trestle Trail.

Welcome and Introductions

Mayor Ann Campbell
Vice Chair

Meeting called to order at 4pm by Vice-Chair Ann Campbell

Review and Approve April 13, 2017 Minutes

Rick moves to approve, Sonia seconds, motion carries

Old Business:

- Update on Monitoring Efforts in Squaw Creek Pat Conrad, EOR
 - Pat noted sampling began mid-April with 7 samples so far.
 - Of those samples, Nitrogen and E. coli are high. Pat noted E.coli is an “indicator species,” meaning it is the cheap way of determining the amount of bacteria in the water. There are other bacteria species of concern on top of the E.coli.
 - Pat assured the group that high levels of nitrogen seems to be a theme in many places this year, but unexplainable at this point in time. He also added that having E.coli ten times the standard is not uncommon in this watershed or in other areas.
 - Pat concluded with a reminder that the monitoring results are posted on the Prairie Rivers of Iowa website and that the state has a website for real-time monitoring data in the area.

- Update from Squaw Creek Watershed Coordinator Kayla Hasper, PRI
 - Kayla updated the group on the efforts that have been made in Squaw Creek for the last quarter.
 - Two field days were held by Prairie Rivers of Iowa in June – the first being on June 13th in Hamilton County. The topics of discussion were cover crops, bioreactors, no-till, and other soil health research. Attendance was great, with the majority being farmer/landowners.
 - The second field day was held on June 27th in the East Indian Creek Watershed in cooperation with Key Cooperative and Story County Conservation. Topics discussed were partnerships in water quality, Hickory Grove Lake improvements, Key Cooperative’s SUSTAIN program, and others.
 - One more field day will be held on August 15 in cooperation with Iowa Seed Corn’s Cover Crop Initiative.
 - Kayla also noted that cover crop season is coming up and she is already receiving applications for cost-share through the Squaw Creek Water Quality Initiative money.
 - A new project is set to begin in September to address the small landowners that buffer the City of Ames in the Squaw Creek Watershed. This special project is being funded by the Iowa Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) through a Conservation Collaboration Grant (CCG). The project will help identify the small landowners of 10-100 acres in that 5-mile fringe zone to direct them to the land management and conservation practice services. Kayla also noted the landowners do qualify for our cost-share program, so that will be an incentive for the landowners to install conservation.

- Update from Watershed Educator Dan Haug, PRI
 - Dan showed the latest pop-up banners with the group. These banners show the various ways that water moves across the agricultural and urban landscapes, as well as what containments the water carries with it.
 - Dan noted that there is a Keigley Branch Watershed Management Plan development meeting in the conference room immediately following the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority meeting.
- Continued Discussion of Goals and Objectives Update Penny Brown Huber, PRI
 - Penny reiterated that we are working as a group on identifying next steps from the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Plan.
 - Penny announced that the executive committee from this board will meet outside of this meeting to flesh out the ideas on how to tackle priority goals/objectives.

New Business:

- Watershed Management Authorities of Iowa Initiative Pat Conrad, EOR
 - Pat handed out a letter inviting the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority Board members to participate in the statewide effort. This group is working on general issue such as how statewide organizations can benefit everyone, and how to promote to the legislature on the group and the watershed work going on across the state.
 - Pat added that the Iowa Water Center is administrating the group and that he has been in attendance of all of the previous meetings this past year.
 - The group is looking for membership and is open to the public.
 - Rick Sanders asked if the group was able to join and not just individuals.
 - Pat answered by noting that they are looking for individual membership to the group and would like a representative from Squaw Creek WMA
 - Bob Kindred added that this group is a great idea in order to work from the group up.
 - The group decided to sit on the invite for the quarter and nominate someone to represent Squaw Creek WMA at the next meeting.
- New Grant/Contract Projects Penny Brown Huber, PRI
 - Urban Fringe Grant – NRCS of Iowa
 - Penny noted that Kayla gave an update on the urban fringe project. She reiterated that this is a continuation of our current efforts in Squaw Creek and will help us reach more landowners
 - Watershed Signage – Story County
 - Penny announced that Prairie Rivers of Iowa is in the research phase on the signage project.
 - She also added that the phases of the project are research of best practices, recommendations and design with Story County Conservation, and then sign installation. This will all happen by the end of the year 2017.
 - Additional comments made by Penny were that Prairie Rivers of Iowa is working with the public to have deeper conservations on water quality and soil health. She would also like to talk to the Governor of Iowa about water quality and the work being done in Squaw Creek and Story County

Board Members Share Updates on Watershed Initiatives and/or Issues in the area

- Erv Klaas noted that he heard about the Watershed Management Authorities and their efforts at a statewide Soil and Water Conservation District meeting
- Erv recommend that the group asked to be on the agenda for the Conservation Districts of Iowa annual conference for commissioners next year
- Erv also reiterated the challenge of the word authority in Watershed Management Authorities, which only establishes themselves as a service organization.
- Bob Kindred updated the group on the City of Ames parking lot, which is being converted into a permeable paver parking lot. The north half was done last week and the south half is currently under construction.
- Ann Campbell added that there is a video on the city website about the project

Next Meetings:

October 12th, 2017 at 4:00 PM. Location TBD. The City of Ames volunteered to host; Sonia with Gilbert also noted that they would be happy to host.

Adjournment

Motion by Rick Sanders to adjourn at 5:30PM

Minutes submitted by Kayla Hasper