



**Fall Quarterly Meeting  
Thursday, October 18, 2018  
Meeting Minutes**

4:00-5:30 PM

Gilbert Community Center – 105 S 2<sup>nd</sup> St Gilbert, IA 50105

**Field Tour:** Wetland site for stormwater treatment at Upstill Park (129 Park Ave Gilbert, IA 50105)  
Tad Stupp, water and wastewater operator at City of Gilbert, gave attendees a tour of a stormwater wetland site on the southwest side of Gilbert that treats overland flow from that section of town. The wetland is designed to be dry until a rain event, when it slows down the water by diverting it to holding areas. This process allows some water to infiltrate and some water to move slowly above-ground, both removing some nutrients from the water.

Board members present: Rick Sanders (Story County Supervisors), Tad Stupp (City of Gilbert), Harold Hove (City of Stanhope), Steve Carlson (Boone County SWCD), Jean Eells (Hamilton SWCD), Bronwyn (City of Ames), Selden Spencer (Story SWCD)

Also present: Tracy Warner and Liz Calhoun (City of Ames), Laura Merrick (Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition), Penny Brown Huber, Kayla Bergman, Dan Haug, Mike Brandrup (Prairie Rivers of Iowa)

**Welcome**

Jean Eells

Laura Merrick demonstrated a smartphone app by Dutch company Deltares that can be used with a reference card to enable more precise readings of nitrate test strips. Board members tested samples from the following locations for nitrate.

“Deadman’s Gulch” @ Hwy17	4.9 mg/L
Worrell Creek @ X Ave	15 mg/L
Jean’s well water	12 mg/L
Gilbert Creek @ tile	11.5 mg/L
Gilbert Creek @ lagoon	4.5 mg/L
Whitefox Creek	7.5 mg/L
Squaw Creek @ Brookside	5.0 mg/L

**Review and Accept Agenda**

Rick Sanders moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Selden Spencer. Motion carries.

**Review and Accept July 19, 2018 Minutes**

Rick Sanders moved to accept the agenda, seconded by Steve Carlson. 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?

- Jean Eells—Eells talked this afternoon Randy Baker of Stratford. Stratford volunteered to host July 2019 meeting and is willing to be involved going forward.
- Steve Carlson- Both Boone County Conservation and SWCD approved putting up watershed signs in Boone County. The press release that Carlson wrote for last meeting was picked up by Nevada Journal. Practical Farmers of Iowa is planning a conference in January and will have Kayla speak on behalf of the work in Squaw Creek.
- Rick Sanders- Story County had a joint meeting of conservation, planning and zoning, and supervisors to discuss next steps coming out of the countywide watershed assessment. Sanders had a great meeting with developer Kirk Friedrich a property along Squaw Creek at County Line Road who was receptive to the idea of incorporating water quality demonstration practices and a county park into a residential development, similar to the partnership that was done with the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor. Friedrich has given Story County permission to do a native species inventory on the property. Sanders, Brown-Huber, and Bergman gave a presentation on our watershed efforts to a group of county supervisors at the Iowa State Association of Counties meeting, which was well received.
- Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen and Tracy Warner – Ames City Council had workshop to learn about ongoing watershed efforts and appointed a council member (Beatty-Hansen) to represent them on the Squaw Creek WMA board. Council has approved a stormwater wetland project as part of the South Grand Ave extension. Stream restoration projects have been delayed by wet weather. These include stabilization of the South Skunk north of Carr Park to protect a sanitary trunk and a shared used pathway, low-head dam modification on the South Skunk at Riverside Park, and stabilization at Clear Creek as part of repairs on a damaged sewer pipe. Warner commented that stream stabilization is expensive but necessary and that the green infrastructure approach taken at Squaw Creek @ Lincoln Way (a stone toe with native plants instead of riprap on the upper slope) has been successful and is now the preferred approach for FEMA and other federal agencies. A survey found that there was widespread public interest in installing in-ground stormwater features as part of the reconstruction of Welch Ave. Ames Water and Pollution Control is looking for labs that will do bacterial source tracking, to try to narrow down whether high E. coli levels in Squaw Creek and tributaries are from human or animal sources.
- Harold Hove – In the northeast corner of town, there has been more frequent flooding in recent years. This is also a concern for wellhead protection. Hove is making some inquiries into who owns the land to see if there are some opportunities to reduce flooding and runoff through practices that improve soil health.
- Selden Spencer - Cost share approval by Story SWCD has increased from last year, using all but a couple hundred dollars of available funds. The district is sponsoring Water Rocks! to educate students on water quality and watersheds in two Story County elementary schools this fall.

## Old Business:

- Prairie Rivers of Iowa Watersheds Program Update Kayla Bergman, PRI
  - New Staff Member  
A new marketing coordinator was hired in September. Mike Kellner has sales, marketing, and photography experience, having worked for The Iowan magazine and has a photography business.

- Squaw Creek Water Quality Initiative  
Cover crop acreage doubled from last year. All producers were able to get it seeded, despite wet weather. No-till acres increased by 2.5 times. Several educational events were held last quarter, including a bioreactor field day in partnership with Iowa Learning Farms.
- Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship Visit  
After November election, but before the Squaw Creek WQI grant is re-negotiated in February, Penny would like a group of WMA members to talk with Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship about the importance of the work.
- Grants  
Prairie Rivers of Iowa submitted a grant to National Fish and Wildlife Federation to hire another coordinator to implement conservation practices in 3 small (HUC12) watersheds (one in Squaw Creek Watershed, two outside), will hear if we received grant in November. Prairie Rivers submitted two applications to DNR Clean Water Education and Outreach Grant, one in partnership for Boone County for watershed signs, one in partnership with City of Ames and Story County Conservation for an urban soil health campaign. Neither proposal was funded but Haug and Warner are working on adapting the application for a REAP CEP grant due Nov 1. Bergman is identifying funding sources for the watershed signage in Boone County. An IDALS WQI Urban Conservation Grant is due in December. City of Ames has funded two stormwater projects with this grant; it might be something for City of Gilbert to consider for further stormwater projects in Upstill Park.
- Landowner 'Thank You' Program Mike Brandrup, PRI  
Mike Brandrup is launching a project to mail thank-you certificates to landowners in Squaw Creek Watershed who are already doing conservation and encourage them to maintain and continue those practices.

### **New Business:**

- Hamilton County Board of Supervisors Jean Eells  
Despite previous conversations indicating otherwise, Hamilton County Supervisors are not willing to join the WMA at this time. After the election, Sanders and Eells plan to talk with Rick Young, who is running unopposed to fill the seat that will be vacated by Dave Young.
- EOR practice scenario tool demonstration Dan Haug, PRI  
Haug demonstrated a spreadsheet-based scenario planning tool that was developed by Emmons & Olivier Resources for the Story County Watershed Assessments. The maximum number of bioreactors, saturated buffers, etc. that can be installed in a watershed was determined using the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework, while row-crop acres sets an upper limit for cover crops and non-structural practices. Users can edit the existing adoption rate and target adoption rate for each conservation practice to see how much nitrogen and phosphorus reduction would result. The 2075 acres cover crops, 3100 acres of no-till, and 1 bioreactor installed so far through the Squaw Creek WQI project will get us 1% of the way to meeting nitrogen reduction goals for the watershed and 8% of the way to meeting phosphorus reduction goals. While the

scale of change needed was known and discussed for the Management Plan, this tool provides a helpful way to put it into perspective and experiment with different combinations of practices.

- Hosts for 2019 Meetings

Jean Eells

January in Stanhope

April in Boone County

July in Stratford

October in Ames (visit completed stormwater wetlands and lowhead dam modification project)

### **Adjournment**

At 5:32PM, Selden Spencer motioned to adjourn, Harold Hove seconded. Motion carries.

**Next Meeting:** January 17, 2019 – Stanhope