



**Board Spring Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, April 19, 2018**

4:00-5:30 PM
Boone County Courthouse
201 State St Boone, IA 50036

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

Also Present:

Penny Brown Huber, Kayla Bergman, and Aimee Burch, Prairie Rivers of Iowa
Cindy Hildebrand, interested citizen

Welcome

Rick Sanders

Introductions and Board Member Updates

WMA Board Members

Each person in attendance introduced themselves and the jurisdiction they represent. Rick followed up with a note that Jean Eells, chair was out of town and unable to make it to the meeting. He had a great conversation with her via phone and she was excited about the tour and to have new board members added and excited about Squaw Creek.

Water Sample Testing

Kayla Bergman, PRI

Kayla Bergman administered test strips from the RetaiN kits to each of the board members that brought in water samples. Sanders, Kindred, Carlson, Scheuermann, and Hildebrand brought in water samples from their local creeks, tile outlets in their area, and tap water.

Bergman discussed the importance of knowing your water nitrate levels and how important protecting our watershed from nutrients via conservation practice implementation is. She also went into detail about the importance of the automated sampler in Squaw Creek and thanked City of Ames for their leadership and partnership on this project that brings great transparency to the watershed.

Review and Approve January 18, 2018 Minutes

Steve Carlson made a motion to approve the minutes from the January 18, 2018 meeting of the board. Selden Spencer seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Old Business:

- Prairie Rivers of Iowa Watersheds Program Update
 - Squaw Creek Water Quality Initiative Grant

Kayla Bergman, PRI

- Hove shared the latest implementation that Stanhope has been implementing for the Sourcewater Protection Plan. Projects include working with a landowner northeast of town to put a buffer along his field border that is close to the wellhead, working with a group of horse farmers to remove the manure piles from close to the wellhead, a rain barrel workshop for the community, and installing perennial plants in the parks and along the roadside.
 - Board members all commended Hove for his leadership in the watershed and the importance of thinking about practices that have dual benefits for the watershed and the town like he and Stanhope have done in their community.
- Statewide WMAs Group Kayla Bergman, PRI
 - Bergman commented that she and Brown-Huber presented and attended the latest statewide WMA meeting that was hosted in Toledo last month. Squaw Creek isn't a formal member of the group, but Bergman proposed that a board member goes with her to the biannual meeting to learn about what is going on across the state. The group agreed on a rotation schedule to attend.

New Business:

- Hamilton County Board of Supervisors Rick Sanders
 - Sanders announced that the Hamilton County Board of Supervisors has agreed to sign on board for the Squaw Creek 28E. Story County will take the lead on the request for amendment paperwork that will need to be filed. Timeline agreed upon for Hamilton County is June with the other members voting at their July meeting to amend the 28E agreement.
- Squaw Creek Watershed WMA Format Penny Brown Huber, PRI
 - Brown-Huber shared that PRI has had conversations with a few of the WMA board members individually and that the proposed next step would be to consider a larger area as an alliance – to include Keigley and the two HUC 10 watersheds in Hamilton that comprise the Headwaters of the South Skunk. More conversations will be had, but the group all agreed that it is a logical next step in the watershed work.
- Board Member Comments/Updates
 - Hildebrand asked about what the Ames city council was planning to do about stormwater regulations. Kindred replied that the regulations have been in place for approximately four years and the last administration at the city was very in favor of these guidelines. He expects that the new councilmen and mayor will still support the guidelines outlined.
 - Sanders added that from his perspective, the council is really in favor of continuing the stormwater and that there will be no changes as the *Ames Tribune* alluded to.
 - Sanders told the group he is meeting with landowners that have stover bales on their land that were going to be used for the Dupont Cellulosic Ethanol Plant that recently closed and is up for sale. He posed the question of using the bales for conservation practices – possibly bioreactor carbon source. Bergman responded that it would be good to check with Matt Helmers at Iowa State University on that, but wondered if the stover bales would decompose too quickly to be a viable, cost effective option.

Adjournment

Field Tour: Caravan to Squaw Creek site in Boone County for watershed observation

- At the site, Scheuermann outlined the characteristics of what made him select the site. A gravel mining pit, meandering stream, wildlife, and intense tillage all lined the site. Board members observed the site, asked questions of Scheuermann, and posed questions for the future of the site.

Next Meeting: July 19, 4PM @ Hamilton County Soil and Water Conservation District