



Squaw Creek Watershed Meeting Minutes Thursday, April 18, 2019 – 4:00 p.m.

4:00-5:30 PM

Stanhope Community Center (600 Main Street Stanhope, IA 50246)

Attending: Jean Eells, Selden Spencer, Steve Carlson, Bronwyn Beatty-Hansen, Linda Murken, Tanner Scheuermann, Laura Merrick, Tracy Warner, Penny Brown Huber, Mike Kellner

4:00 p.m. Field Tour: Jeremy Gustafson's Farm (886 T Avenue, Boone, IA 50036 (corner of Hwy 17 and 190th Ave)

Jeremy shared his convictions about planting cover crops and gave us his perspective on why other farmers do not do the same. He is very proud of the efforts and progress he has made at improving soil health on his farm. The Board was impressed.

4:35 p.m

Welcome and Water Testing

Review and Approve Agenda

Review and Approve January 18, 2019 Minutes – motion to approve was accepted

WMA Board Member Updates

Tanner, Boone County: they continue to look for money for creating and placing watershed signage around the county; and also have been participating in volunteer water monitoring with Prairie Rivers.

Selden, Story County: SWCD has been auditing their books; trying to create a five year plan instead of a yearly plan. Interesting meeting with VRBIO (fermenting of natural gas) who is taking over DuPont company plant – they are interested in lining up producers.

Tracy, City of Ames: Secretary of Ag coming to Ames on 4/22/19 at 3 pm at Welch Avenue fire station to have a press conference on awarding a grant to the City of Ames for water quality improvements.

Linda, Story County: Tuesday, April 16th the Supervisors formally appointed a water quality team. The team is made up of department heads assigned (all depts. represented). Meeting quarterly, reporting to Supervisors.

Steve, Boone County: Boone SWCD is beginning to focus on creating a five year plan; hope to have done in 2-3 months. Field day with Lee Tesdall, south of Slater on 7/10/19, what it takes between a landowner and farmer on contracts to successfully include conservation; he will send more details by email.

Brownwynn, City of Ames: no updates.

Jean, Hamilton County: The last soil and water commissioner meeting, their newest member has a bridge out, could be an opportunity for conservation practices. Jean is reaching out to Randy Baker, in hopes that

Closing WQI Project

We have 60 days for final report. Kayla Bergmann is helping.

The Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor was recognized and given an award at the Iowa Water Conference in March.

Izaak Walton League is doing training for water monitoring by volunteers this summer.

New Business:

Hiring a new Watershed Coordinator, Penny Brown Huber

Job listing has been out, we have great candidates. Hope our new watershed coordinator will start around June 3rd.

Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor -- Open House Celebration -- June 28, 2019

As we learn more, we will let the Board know. Event will most likely be held in the afternoon.

WMAs of Iowa Annual Meeting & Conference -- May 3, 2019 -- 9:45 AM -- 3:30 PM

DMACC Newton Campus, 600 N 2nd Ave West A, Newton, IA

Linda Murken and Leanne Harter are planning to attend and represent the Squaw Creek WMA Board. They will give us a report at the July meeting.

Updates from Laura Merrick:

Cultivating a relationship with the state hygienic lab for microbiological testing for human waste identifier in water. Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition could do grabs of water samples for the state lab to test their protocols. Ames/Worle Creek some potential for more areas to be tested.

May 18th water quality snapshot date – takes about four hours, all are welcome to help.

*Next Meeting: **July 18, 2019**, Stratford, IA – hosted by Hamilton County and City of Stratford*

Adjourned: 5:40 p.m.