



Squaw Creek Watershed Meeting Agenda Thursday, January 16, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Place: Gilbert City Hall, 105 S 2nd St, Gilbert, IA 50105

4:00 p.m

Welcome and Water Testing

Jean Eells, Chair

S. Creek Watershed Management Authority

Water quality is relatively good, around 2

Review and Approve Agenda

Approved

Review and Approve October 17, 2019 Minutes

Approved

Board Member Updates

WMA Board Members

Selden: Auditing and accounting is being reviewed at Story SWCD. SWCD has discussed a CDI resolution involving fall tillage. An annual retreat is being organized to discuss a 5-year plan for the SWCD and how to most effectively use funds.

Jean: Hamilton County has a new DC and conservation assistant. Hamilton County is also home to 3 live WMA's with a 4th potentially on the way. Looking to get an official representative from the Hamilton County Supervisors to go to these meetings. A roundtable discussion for farmers on in field conservation practices is happening in Stanhope on February 5th from 7:30-9:30am. RSVP as soon as possible if you are interested.

Harold: Tile issues in Stanhope with a house and garage built over a tile line. Lots of work needed to correct the issue.

City of Gilbert: Lagoon aeration project underway. A new water treatment plant along with two wells are also in development.

Liz for City of Ames: 10th anniversary Eco-Fair is being planned along with several new events leading up to it. New events include monthly eco-chats and a keynote speaker. The water-quality eco-chat is on February 26th at the Ames library, PRI will be there, so the WMA could join in as well. The goal is to try to get residents to change their behavior and volunteer.

Partner updates and reports

Lynn: Agricultural Innovators Experience is being planned, with the subject being "Water Connects us All." Event is for High School and 4-H students from 7 central US states. Dates for the event are from February 7th through February 9th.

Doug: A potential bioreactor is being planned for installation near Stanhope. It's in the very early planning stages, so stay tuned.

Laura: U-turn project is partnering with several groups moving forward. Microbial source tracking is the latest activity which looks to determine the sources of microbe contamination in local waterways, and the state hygienic lab is running these analyses. The first testing phase is determining if there is human waste contamination (there is.)

Rick: Water quality snapshot event took place. With the help of volunteers, over 30 sites were sampled. The group found relatively low E. coli levels.

Cindy: No Updates

Old Business:

Update on NFWF project

David Stein, Watershed Coordinator

We received a \$500 dollar grant from the Walmart Community Grants Program to enhance the seed bank program. If you would like to see your favorite native species being offered, please let me know. The flyways system is being reworked and switched from watershed-based to county-based to address confusion from the community. The new system also incorporates records of endangered species onto the map to act as additional data points. I will be working more closely with the Story NRCS starting this year, including working at the Nevada office twice a month. NRCS and I are looking for funding programs to convert around 70 acres of pasture into native ground cover and habitat in the Indian Creek Watershed. Burgason Enterprises is developing a new eco-friendly housing development in South Ames, and I will be acting as an on-call wildlife and habitat consultant.

Grants Application Update

Penny Brown Huber/Dan Haug

■ Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant (due Jan 30)

We are looking at some ox-bow restoration opportunities on the Skunk River Water Trail. We hope to partner with Story County Conservation and the Conservation Corps of Iowa in order to get this project completed. The application is due on January 31st.

Next steps for the DNR and IDALS regarding support for WMA's

Jean Eells

Conversation with John Whitaker, CDI, Susan Kozak IDALS, and Allen Bonini, DNR 319 program did not resolve anything in particular but raised the issue of multiple WMAs and funding and lack of direction from DNR.

New Business:

Story County Water Monitoring Project

Dan Haug

Funding sources are being determined for water monitoring projects in new streams. Potential partners include Story County Conservation and Story SWCD.

Watershed projects identified by Members in need of support

Jean Eells

Stanhope: Tile lines need review, and road repairs are needed.

Story SWCD: Hickory Grove has several issues including sedimentation. Stream bank erosion control and bank stabilization is another potential project idea. A drainage district demonstration project that focusses on soil health and water quality was discussed.

Hamilton SWCD: In field management practices including cover crops and reduced tillage.

City of Gilbert: No projects discussed.

City of Ames: \$100,000 for nutrient reduction practices. A plan needs to be developed for allocation of funds.

Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition: Water quality monitoring projects with local Izaak Walton League chapters.

ISU Extension: Further investment into saturated buffers and bio-reactors.

Note: Not-official business, but added for record-keeping purposes

Boone County: Stream bank stabilization is an issue where sites are grazed, this also leads to increased nutrient loads. Strategies to work with farmers with livestock to implement BMP's to reduce erosion and nutrient load. Partner with CCB, IDNR, USACE, and NGO's to implement BMP's on public lands. Working with landowners to increase implementation of CRP, WRP, STRIPS, and other programs throughout the watershed.

Adjournment

5:15 p.m. Tour to newly completed project at Gilbert – very short, it will be cold but there's always benefit to seeing the landscape of the watershed to keep everything in perspective!

Next Meetings: **April 16, 2020, 4:00 p.m. -- Host: City of Stanhope**

July 16, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – Host: Boone County

October 15, 2020, 4:00 p.m. – Host: Hamilton County SWCD

S. Creek Watershed Management Authority Board

Future Watershed Projects

Please list potential or future watershed projects for your jurisdiction or agency, if you have an anticipated start/completion date, anticipated costs and any special notes. Bring for discussion to the WMA meeting. Thank you.

Jurisdiction or Agency: _____

<u>Type of Project</u>	<u>Anticipated Start/ Completion of Project</u>	<u>Anticipated Cost</u>	<u>Special Notes</u>
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
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