



## Squaw Creek Watershed ZOOM Meeting Agenda Thursday, October 15, 2020 – 4:00 p.m.

Attending: Penny Brown Huber, David Stein, Jean Eells, Linda Murken, Mitch Peterson, Tanner Scheuermann, Neil Weiss, Sara Carmichael, Tracy Peterson, Dan Haug, Laura Merrick, Mike Kellner, Rick Young

Welcome: 4:02

Jean Eells, Chair

S. Creek Watershed Management Authority

Review and Approve Agenda

Agenda approved, Linda moved, Tanner seconded

Review and Approve July 16, 2020 Minutes

Minutes approved, Tanner moved, Mitch seconded

Board Member Updates

WMA Board Members

Jean: No new updates from Hamilton SWCD, managing to keep up with Zoom meetings. Boone River WMA meeting attended. Cover crop applications are normal, no large quantities as compared to usual.

Mitch: Low area in town getting planted with prairie grass. Sprayed current grass cover, and used free seed from Pheasants Forever.

Linda: Pass, WMA discussion for later

Tanner: Moving into natural resource work. CRP mid contract management in beaver creek watershed.

Neil: Working with ISA on the soil and water outcomes fund. Putting cover crops/no-till, working with farmers north of Ames. Contact Adam Kiel at ISA for more information on the program. Might be more opportunities in the future for surrounding watersheds.

Tracy: Construction continues on S 5<sup>th</sup> Wetland and Welch Ave Tree Trenches, expect some progress by end of this week. 9 tree trenches will treat water going into college creek.

Old Business:

Grant Application Update

Penny Brown Huber, PRI

- *Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant* – oxbow project with Story County Conservation was declined

Penny: This project was denied however, in working with Mike Cox we have decided to look elsewhere for the funds. Iowa Soybean Association has an oxbow specialist that might be able to help.

New Business:

Headwaters of the South Skunk WMA Letter of Support

Jean and Linda

Jean: Need to decide as a group to submit a letter of support for the project.

Linda: DNR contacted us about the headwaters 28E. Money will be available for watershed assessments and planning, so it would be good to organize the WMA. Hamilton County supervisors are supportive and are going to sign on/will provide cash match. 70% of the headwaters are in Hamilton County, so they are very important. Unsure if Boone will join since they have just a small section. Still need more letters of support, especially from the WMA. Bylaws and board meeting happening on October 28<sup>th</sup>, just housekeeping to get started. City of Ames letter needs to come from City Council.

Laura: Squaw Creek Watershed Coalition will provide a letter of support. May expand water monitoring efforts to the new WMA.

Board unanimously approves a letter of support.

## Discussion regarding Election of Officers in January 2021

Jean

Jean: We need to have an election of officers at our January meeting. We might want to think of cutting back meetings to 2 or 3 times per year rather than quarterly.

Penny: Elections were supposed to happen earlier this year, delayed due to COVID.

## An Update on Story County Water Monitoring 10-Year Plan

Tracy Peterson, Ames and Penny

Tracy: Collaborative group is working on a 10-year plan, several stakeholders from the county are involved. Purpose is to collect and analyze water samples throughout the county to let citizens know what is going on with water in the county. Samplings are being taken by volunteers and Ames lab staff. Subgroups within the county planning group are also meeting regularly. Dan has been sifting through a massive amount of data. Watershed awareness month has been adopted by several Story County municipalities for October. Encourage everyone to do watershed education. PRI had a great film festival.

Dan: City of Ames has a great weekly data set from the last 18 years, tell us what is going on with nitrate and phosphorus. Nitrate concentrations are going down. Trends are being established.

## PRI Nectar Network

David Stein, PRI

Power point presentation

## Opportunities for Guests to Update WMA Members

Jean

Sara Carmichael (IRR): River town of the year award is open for applications. Annual award, 10-year history. Good way for towns to promote the good work they've been doing for water quality and river stewardship. Towns have used the award to highlight themselves for grant applications. Application is Due 12/11/2020, celebrations will occur in February.

Mike Kellner: Thanks for everyone's support for the film festival. National group was happy with the attendance; this was the first one to occur in Iowa. Sold 104 tickets, 370 total estimated participants.

Rick Young: What is the intent of the grant for the WMA? Will help conduct the assessment of the watershed and help organize the WMA.

Dan Haug: Fall snapshot will happen on 10/24/2020, collecting invertebrates at streams with water in them. Sending out an announcement tomorrow.

Jean Eells: Turnip cover crops are working to get through the soil compaction on her farm. Buckwheat is also struggling to push through the soil, more horizontal growth rather than vertical. Per acre cost for cover crop mix was \$40.

Adjournment: Meeting Adjourned at 5:14

Next Meetings **January 21, 2021, 4:00 p.m.**

- Parking Lot: Next steps for the DNR and IDALS regarding support for WMA's