



## Loway Creek Watershed Management Authority Board

Brookside Park, 1325 6th St, Ames, IA 50010

Thursday, October 20, 2022 – 4:00-5:30 p.m.

### In Attendance:

Board members: Linda Murken (Story County), Jeff Schroeder (Stanhope), Tim Gartin (City of Ames), Spencer (Story SWCD) by phone

Guests: Liz Calhoun, Tracy Peterson, Sara Carmichael, Taylor O'Bryan, Jeremy Johannsen, Dan Haug, and Jessica Butters

**The business part of the meeting could not proceed because we only had 4 out of 5 board members needed for quorum.**

### 4:00pm Field Trip – Stream restoration and mussel rescue

The Loway Creek WMA met at Brookside Park in Ames, Iowa to see the mussel relocation process and to learn more about the upcoming stream restoration project on that section of the Loway Creek.

Liz Calhoun shared plans for the stream restoration project that will soon start at Brookside Park. The channel is being moved and reshaped to slow the force of water and stop erosion that is threatening property. The old channel will become an oxbow wetland that will treat stormwater.

<https://www.cleanwateriowa.org/brookside-park-water-quality-project>

Tracy said the project is going beyond rip rap to include features that re-direct the flow of water and enhance habitat, including J-hooks, w-weirs, and riffles.

Tracy said that E. coli is regularly tested at this location and usually exceeds standards. The area just upstream used to be a horse pasture. Dan Haug said there are many sources but we have measured high E. coli in a storm sewer outlet near the high school. It drains parts of north Ames that were built before ordinances required ponds. Tracy said the new high school has storage chambers under the parking lot and ponds that will reduce stormwater runoff.

Tim noted that feedback from Friends of Brookside volunteer group has been very helpful, such as suggesting lamps with beams directed downward to reduce light pollution, and pointing out locations of desirable and invasive plants.

Dan explained that a mussel survey last year found two state threatened species. During the permitting phase of the project, DNR requested that these species be relocated out of area affected by construction.

Tracy said that mussels have an important role in protecting water quality. This video shows how quickly they can clean a tank of dirty water.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DBoX0NMOeDU>

After the discussion, the group walked down the trail in Brookside to the bridge near 13<sup>th</sup> Street to watch the mussel relocation being carried out by biologists and volunteers.

Sara announced that the Headwaters of the South Skunk WMA is hosting an open house in Story City and Jewel to communicate with landowners and farmers about the draft watershed plan and about practices and cost-share programs available.

The meeting ended around 4:45pm due to lack of quorum.