



Loway Creek

Watershed Management Authority

Loway Creek Watershed Management Authority Board

Virtual Meeting via ZOOM

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

Attending: Penny, David, Selden, Dan, Sara, Laura, Tracy, Jeff, Linda, Katie, Leanne, Rick, Jeremy Johannsen, Taylor O'Bryan

Welcome – Review and Approve Agenda

Selden Spencer, Chair
I. Creek Watershed Management
Authority

Review and Approve October 21, 2021 Minutes

Linda moves to approve, Jeff seconds. Minutes approved
Board Member Updates

WMA Board Members

Katie: New director for Boone County Conservation, transferred from interim to full-time. Looking forward to working with everyone.

Jeff: Working on a water quality monitoring program with DMACC students, looking to monitor cricket creek with Stanhope library.

Dan: Reaching out to a landowner on Prairie Creek. Extending a historic dataset with some new monitoring activities.

Rick: Serve on several WMAs with Linda, attended a pipeline meeting earlier this month.

Tracy: Municipal engineer with the city of Ames. Flood mitigation projects are the most visible activities going on at this time. State legislation house study bill attempting to strip cities and counties of storm water regulations. City opposes this. Currently in sub-committee (HSB 536.)

Dan: Working on WQ monitoring and data analysis.

Sara: Watershed coordinator for Story County

Laura: Sitting in on WMA meetings for a few years, recently retired agronomy faculty member. Intermim chair of the loway Creek watershed coalition.

Taylor O'Bryan: Boone NRCS Soil Conservationist, looking to see what's going on in the WMA.

Jeremy Johannsen: NRCS Boone County.

Old Business:

Update: Headwaters of the South Skunk River WMA

Linda Murken

Linda: Next meeting is on Monday. Working on organizational issues that keep coming up. Clarification was needed on members, and bylaws will be updated to allow alternates. Getting down to the details of the watershed study. Working on organizational issues overall. Joint meetings between the two WMA's would be beneficial, especially when the new study is released.

Selden: Boone River WMA's plan has been released, and is looking pretty thin.

Update: DMACC Water Quality Monitoring

Dan/Jeff

Jeff: One professor is teaching a field course, and water sample testing will be conducted there. Making plans to hand this program off to the next professor.

Dan: Scouted some sites with Prairie Creek being the most beneficial to get started. Looking to get this started in the spring.

Selden: This will hopefully advance the goals of the 2014

28E Amendments

Selden

Tracy: Needs the documents going to the secretary of state. Each entity needs to sign and notarize.

Leanne: Will send the form to both Selden and Tracy.

New Business:

Discussion of Priorities and Projects for 2022

Selden

Selden: Inspired by the DMACC campus, and would like to insert the concept of Water Quality and Watershed identification to the local primary and secondary school levels.

- Water Quality Monitoring Update

Dan

Dan: Working on compiling data for the last year. loway creek has a lot of water quality monitoring data including snapshots, lab testing and sensors. Now that we have two years of monitoring, we can start comparing historic data upstream to downstream. Getting trends between nitrates and e coli. And comparing loway to Headwaters of the S Skunk. E coli is a problem across the board in loway in both high and low flows.

Selden: Would like the WMA to contribute and be involved in water quality monitoring.

- Re-visit objectives of loway Creek watershed management plan

Selden

- Last updated in 2014
- Connect with short term and long term WMA plans

Selden: Would like sub-committees to pick this up and discuss amongst a smaller group(s). Awareness is a primary issue; don't think we are where we need to be for awareness. The original goal was to have 80% of people know where their watershed was. Goal 2 is improving and monitoring water quality, Dan is handling this well, but more hands on deck would be great. Goal 3 was addressing hydrology. Four was to increase the variety of habitats. Goal 5 was increasing recreational opportunities. Number 6 was facilitating coordination with other entities like with other WMAs. Boone River has carved out two specific smaller creeks to work on, should we increase efforts in a few smaller HUC-12s? Onion Creek and Prairie Creek are some good candidates, especially in outreach and implementation. Big picture is to get smaller groups together to address goals.

Tracy: Always good to review goals and strategies moving forward. It's been a bit too long to get this done.

- Upcoming Grant Opportunity: Water Infrastructure Fund

David/Penny

David: Shovel ready projects for municipalities. \$500,000 available with 5% match through Iowa Finance Authority.

Center for Rural Affairs summary sheet for helpful. PRI can send if anyone is interested in this grant opportunity.

Sarah: Story county applied for this grant for their edge of field projects along with the city of Ames. Waiting on a final approval.

Tracy: Applied for assistance with loway Creek at Brookside Park. Made an additional application for a \$15-million-dollar creek stabilization project with DNR Fisheries.

Opportunities for Guests to Update WMA Members

Laura: Rick Dietz have found the correct spelling for Worle Creek.

Taylor: EQIP ranking period has started, taking up a lot of NRCS's time.

Jeremy: Looking at CRP payments and cost share for Filter Strips. Onion and Prairie Creeks will be prioritized due to previous conversations. Looking to make a big impact in the loway Creek. Cover crops have been promoted in Worle Creek especially along the roadsides to increase visibility.

Linda: Looking forward, NRCS would be great to have in the small group goals discussion.

Rick: 10-thousand-acre drainage district has been annexed by the county, but it is not sitting well currently. Trial will be a 7-day affair.

Next Meeting: April 21st, 2021

- Discussion on Host and Location

Boone County: DMACC Boone Campus; Site visit potentially happening as well. Discussions will be happening in the short term between Selden, Jeff, and Jeremy.

Adjournment

Jeff motions, Rick seconds. Approved: 4:59pm