



Loway Creek Watershed Management Authority Board
Special Meeting via Zoom
Thursday, Feb 9, 2023 – 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Minutes

Directors in attendance:

Selden Spencer (Story SWCD), Jeff Schroeder (Stanhope), Rick Young (Hamilton County BOS), Linda Murken (Story County BOS), Steve Carlson (Boone SWCD), Tim Gartin (City of Ames), Austin Hayek (Webster County BOS)
Quorum of 7/12 is present.

Others in attendance:

Dan Haug and Penny Brown Huber (Prairie Rivers of Iowa), Jeremy Johannsen (Boone County District Conservationist, NRCS), Tracy Petersen (Public Works Engineer, City of Ames), Sara Carmichael (Story County Watershed Coordinator)

The meeting was called to order at 2:09PM by outgoing chair Selden Spencer

Approve Agenda

Steve Carlson motioned to approve agenda, Linda Murken seconded.

Approve Minutes

No minutes were taken at last meeting since we did not have quorum.

New Business:

Clarification on bylaws and thresholds for action

Dan Haug circulated a document listing the members who had signed the 28E agreement and current representatives appointed to board. He said we will want to make sure that members can send a representative if they want to continue to be part of the WMA so we can meet thresholds for quorum (7/12 members) and major decisions (9/12).

Updates: Conservation Director Katie Healy is the current representative for Boone County, but Supervisor Shawn Bryant may be willing to be involved in the future. Sonia Arellano Sundberg has stepped down as the Gilbert representative, and will be replaced by Tim Mattingly (water/wastewater).

Sara Carmichael is working on sorting out the paperwork for the 28E agreement and will find out who was appointed for Webster SWCD and Stratford.

Election of Officers

Jeff Schroeder was nominated for Chair by Rick Young. Steve Carlson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.
Note: it's pronounced "Shray-der"

Selden Spencer was nominated for vice-chair by Linda Murken. Steve Carlson seconded. Motion passes unanimously.

Treasurer will be left unfilled, since there is no account to manage.

Secretary is an appointed role and does not require a vote. Linda Murken asked Dan Haug to continue to serve as secretary and he agreed.

Old Business:

The meeting continued with Jeff Schroeder presiding.

Potential collaboration with Headwaters of South Skunk River WMA

Linda Murken shared some information on what WMAs around the state are doing and raised the concern that there's a lot of money for farmers and landowners to install conservation practices, but not enough people to help them access it. Watershed coordinator positions have high turnover and are often temporary, so there may not be any follow-up if a landowner installs a bioreactor and has a problem with it a few years later. The Center for Rural Affairs did a survey and found that only 7 of 27 WMAs in the state still have a full-time watershed coordinator. They are lobbying the legislature for more stable funding for watershed coordinators.

Murken proposed that Ioway Creek WMA and the new Headwaters of the South Skunk River WMA look for joint funding for a watershed coordinator who can cover both watersheds. Sara Carmichael is working on edge of field practices, but only in Story County. Murken's opinion is that amending a 28E agreement is a bureaucratic nightmare, so best to hold joint meetings and not try to make structural changes.

Steve Carlson expressed support for the proposal. Boone SWCD doesn't have capacity to join every group they'd like to, so joint meetings would allow them to participate in HWSSRWMA.

HWSSRWMA meets next Thurs (Feb 16th) at 10am-12pm at Roland City Hall. Jeff Schroeder will attend.

Dan Haug will get in contact with the secretary for the HWSSRWMA (Marianne Harrelson) to coordinate mailings.

Funding for projects

Jeff Schroeder said this topic overlaps with the previous one.

Rick Young reminded the group that the legislature is working on property tax reform, and that will put the brakes on county spending.

Linda Murken agreed that it is not a good idea to ask local governments for money, but Rep. Shannon Latham has been receptive.

Selden Spencer liked the idea of lobbying the legislature to fund a watershed coordinator. He added that the bulk of watershed is in Boone County and they need to be involved.

Sara Carmichael is planning an event on March 2nd to showcase edge-of-field practices. Secretary Naig will be there and it will be a good opportunity to reach legislators.

Potential speaker on history of drainage

Rick Young saw an [interesting presentation](#) by Joe Otto on the history of drainage in Iowa going back to 1880. Mud Lake north of Jewell and Iowa Lake near Williams were both drained and that influenced to the formation of the Conservation Commission. Otto lives in Ankeny and would be willing to speak in Hamilton County for mileage, so food for attendees would be only other expense. Would also be a chance to let farmers know what's going on with WMAs and that it's all voluntary. Young will reach out to Farm Bureau to help organize, but may need to wait until after planting season. Stanhope Community Center is most likely venue.

Updates on water-related projects

No updates.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2023 at 4-5:30pm

Location TBD, but likely at DMACC Boone Campus with field trip prior. Carlson and Johannsen said that prairie strips wouldn't be interesting in April but there are some new CREP wetlands we could look at.

Carlson motioned to adjourn at 3:00 PM.