

**Watershed Assessment Group Minutes
Story County Administration Building, Public Meeting Room
March 9, 2020**

Present were Leanne Harter, Linda Murken, Keith Morgan, Sandra King, Mike Cox, Jerry Moore, Scott Wall, Matt Boeck, and Margaret Jaynes

Harter called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Murken moved, second by Morgan, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no learning moment.

Murken noted changes to the draft minutes, and action deferred the minutes to the next meeting.

Jaynes asked Cox to update the group on recent meetings with the City of Ames. Cox shared that the City of Ames has funds to spend. Present at the meeting were representatives from the City, Prairie Rivers, and Story County Conservation Board. Discussion included greater watershed planning (Headwaters WMA moving forward) and various ways the City could spend the funds. Potential projects noted included using the Skunk as a demonstration corridor similar to the Bear Creek project, however, these are very early discussions. Murken asked how much money was available and if projects outside city limits could be considered. Cox noted around \$200,000 and that projects could be located outside city limits.

Murken commented on the importance of looking at wetland sites in comparison to associated drainage districts.

Morgan questioned whether it is known what County drainage tiles are running at capacity and analysis as to where improvements can have the maximum benefits.

Old Business

Update on Review of Drainage District B

Murken reviewed Appendix B and forwarded it on to Kent Rhode. Concerns have been noted as to what Iowa drainage laws allow us to do.

She shared work that Amelia Schoeneman with P&D did reviewing five construction sites to see how they met the requirements of the adopted erosion control ordinance. Moore reviewed Amelia's feedback.

Murken asked whether the ordinance is applicable to drainage districts; Moore responded likely not if they are intended for agricultural purposes.

Cox asked if the State requirements would apply on erosion control such as the NPDES permitting requirements, and how does the County Engineer address these areas and does NPDES permitting apply to drainage districts.

Members discussed the updated sheet with BMPs and how the information can be packaged and sent out for drainage district meetings. Murken will send Harter an email with the links (below) to incorporate.

Here are some places to get BMP informational brochures - NRCS:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/ia/newsroom/factsheets/>

and ISU Extension:

<https://store.extension.iastate.edu/ProductList.aspx?Keyword=water+quality&S=0&A=0&F=0>

Discussion about floodplains and drainage districts occurred. Harter will do an overlay along with a standard operating procedure and forward to Wall and Moore for review.

Wall noted the watchman program identifies districts that need cleaned or maintained. Calls are sent in to the Engineer's Office who determine what is needed and if it can be done by County staff or requires contact to the consultant.

Morgan asked whether it has ever been mapped or quantified how much is coming out of the drain tiles into the rivers. Wall noted a study conducted by the University of Iowa. Morgan commented he would email the Iowa Flood Center to see if they have researched the matter.

Jaynes addressed issues related to CAFOs and that land application leads to additional water, asking whether perimeter drains on a CAFO would have to be approved/submitted to a drainage district. Wall replied that anything in a drainage district can tie into a tile.

Murken asked whether there are specific areas around CAFOs we should be identifying for water quality testing. Cox noted the current testing is a way to gain baseline data.

The group addressed future water quality training opportunities. Cox commented that Jerry Keys and Erica Place will be in charge of getting volunteers together.

Jaynes suggested that all 15 lab sites be field tested as well for quality assurance. Cox reviewed the process they are using.

The timing of updates from Prairie Rivers was asked; the response was that the group would be updated at least quarterly.

Cox asked whether the consultants could identify in drainage reports where there public land is that could be used for improvements.

Boeck noted he had completed a project to map out public lands and drainage districts for the consultants which adds to the tools they have to help potentially address water quality.

Website Update Schedule

Harter noted work could be done by mid-May with the best-case scenario.

New Business

Septic System Discussion

Jaynes reviewed potential new septic rules, outlining the requirements that septic systems have to be pumped every five years. The Board is scheduled to address the ordinance for First Consideration on March 17th. The group discussed potential questions Jaynes may receive during the public hearing.

Staff Updates and Assignments

Jaynes commented she had reviewed the source water protections plans summary. She also scheduled training for manure management (spreading) at Secondary Roads.

Moore reviewed the work on the Natural Resources Areas layers, sharing Franklin Township is complete, and Washington and Palestine are to be reviewed. He also addressed the work previously addressed in the meeting and that the comparison of the County's adopted ordinances in comparison to the EOR report indicated the following: the EOR recommendation requires stormwater and erosion control for all subdivisions – County ordinance is only for major subdivisions (greater than four lots); requirements for

financial securities is not in our regulations but bonds and warranties and related are part of the subdivision platting process; we do not require separate contractual agreement for maintenance of systems.

Cox shared the Governor's Invest in Iowa Act and potential for Story County.

Other Items Not on the Agenda

None.

Next Meeting Time and Date

Monday, April 6th from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Cox will be notetaker.

Harter adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Lawrie Harter