

Watershed Assessment Group Minutes
Story County Administration Building, Public Meeting Room
July 20, 2020

Present were Margaret Jaynes, Leanne Harter, Linda Murken, Sandra King, Mike Cox, Darren Moon, Matt Boeck, and Jerry Moore

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

Jaynes moved, second by King, to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Learning Moment

None.

Review Meeting Notes from Prior Meetings

Jaynes moved, second by Wall, to approve Meeting notes from February 13, 2020. Meeting notes from March 9, 2020, and June 15, 2020 deferred until next meeting.

Old Business

None.

New Business

Red Water Complaint – Story City

Jaynes reviewed the location and nature of the complaint in Story City, sharing pictures of the red water as well as maps of tiles. The complaint was received by the City of Story City, and has included the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), City of Story City, and Story County Environmental Health. Jaynes shared this is the third time this type of event has occurred, and it has occurred during the summertime and hot weather. A sample was collected; however, at the time of the meeting, the results were unknown. The IDNR is doing the legwork. The red water has dissipated.

Murken questioned whether the tiles are in a drainage district. Wall replied it is part of the drainage district that was turned over to the City of Story City.

Staff Updates and Assignments

Harter shared the County had received notice that the Community Rating System recertification cycle has been pushed back to fall 2021.

Murken discussed the meeting with the IDNR regarding the Headwaters WMA.

Cox commented on the meeting Murken mentioned, noting that he got the sense they wanted to see what would be potentially acceptable to work on in the Headwaters, commenting the getting Hamilton County's participation with the WMA is key to moving forward.

Harter reviewed the process for formation and funding for the Squaw Creek WMA and commented that perhaps there would be similar funding from the IDNR for the Headwaters.

Wall reviewed drainage district projects that are scheduled over the next few months.

Cox addressed the water quality monitoring program, discussing some of the details of the plan such as testing results and equipment purchases, where and how the data is being collecting, and analysis of what the numbers mean.

He commented on a meeting with the City of Ames and ISU looking at BMPs and possible implementation at the Dotson Farms property as a demonstration site.

Cox reported on a meeting with the City of Ames regarding potential wellfield locations and how it may fit into the planning for extension of greenbelt south of Ames. The City is working to find land for the wellfield with water quality benefits, with possibility of city purchasing land and then turning management and/or ownership over to Story County Conservation.

Work continues as Hickory Grove Lake to draw down and get carp treated. Cox noted that discussions may be moving forward on sewer with Colo.

Jaynes shared that Matt Cory is sampling the lagoon and will be able to present findings at the September meeting.

Boeck commented he will reshare the maps that have been updated.

Moore noted that Natural Resources Areas layer for the townships of Howard, Milford, Grant and Union will be completed by July 29th, which then completes the west half of Story County. The plan is to forward the layer for review to Story County Conservation and then begin work on the east half. Staff completed a flow chart on the erosion control requirements. Moore also shared that notice from FEMA was received regarding the FIRMs, noting no challenges to the draft maps were received so FEMA is moving forward with the adoption process for the new floodplain maps.

Cox asked Moore if he would be able to share the stormwater ordinance and related information with the City of Huxley as their administrator inquired about the ordinances.

Murken asked Jaynes for an update on the septic tank cleanout ordinance. Jaynes responded that it is scheduled to go back to the Board of Health the first week of August and then go to the Board of Supervisors via Zoom.

Jaynes questioned who was contacted to write a letter of support on behalf of the City of Nevada for potential projects. Jaynes shared a map of potential projects forwarded by the City of Nevada. Cox responded the Story County Conservation Board would be drafting a letter. He shared that Jennifer Welch had inquired regarding potential projects in West Indian Creek.

Other Items Not on the Agenda

None

Next Meeting Time and Date

Monday, August 17th from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm

Harter adjourned the meeting at 11:50 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Leanne Lawrie Harter