

Watershed Assessment Group Minutes
Zoom and in person at Story County Administration Building, Public Meeting Room
Monday, September 21, 2020

Committee members present: Leanne Harter, Matt Boeck, Linda Murken, Sandra King, Mike Cox, Jerry Moore, Scott Wall, and Margaret Jaynes. Staff member present: Jerry Keys

Harter called the meeting to order at 10:33 a.m.

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

No learning moment.

Murken moved, second by Jaynes to approve the March 9, 2020, the June 15, 2020, and the July 20, 2020 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Old business –

1. Website Updates. Under county's website page "Meetings & Agendas", you can now access WAWG agenda and minutes. Harter plans to discuss changing the "About Story County" icon on the county web page to the watershed link with a water drop (blue button). Murken suggested we add the agenda and minutes to this page. Jaynes suggested we add the link for the public to find their watershed. Harter will get pricing and present information at our next meeting. Murken asked if an organization that county is part of (WMA) can post items on the website. Harter said they would have to submit a website linking request. Harter said it may be easier to link to their sites. Boeck will send out links to committee members for EOR maps with search capabilities that he added (links will be on the website too).
2. Stormwater & Erosion Control Flowcharts. Moore shared the flowchart, which focuses on erosion requirements from 88.05, *Land Development Regulations* (less than one acre disturbed). This does not reference the sensitive areas inventory that P&D and Conservation has been working on. Engineers must do stormwater design. Flowchart is on the P&D website.
3. Water Quality Monitoring Group Update. Working group of stakeholders has been set up by Prairie Rivers (chair) includes Ames, Nevada, Huxley, Gilbert Leopold Center, and Izaak Walton League. Nevada is proposing a state revolving fund project along with their new WWTP. The stakeholder group will develop a document for the ten-year monitoring plan, with public outreach in mind. COVID has delayed some of the monitoring plans. Dan Haug of Prairie Rivers is analyzing data, collecting samples, managing the website, and coordinating volunteers for Squaw Creek. Keys shared a map with 66 proposed priority-ranked monitoring sites. Sites were chosen based on recommendations by EOR's *Countywide Watershed Assessment* and are located at the lower reaches of HUC12s. Sixteen sites will be covered by Conservation staff during work hours, and 12 sites by volunteers. Quality control measures will be implemented. Volunteer hours will be tracked by HUC12. Keys had three more volunteers from the recent article in *Our Story*. Once sites are assigned, Keys enters them to the Ikes' Clean Water Hub website. Field testing includes pH, temperature, nitrate, nitrite, phosphates, DO, chloride, turbidity. Kits can be checked out from conservation center. Testing will be twice a month.

Cox suggested a learning moment for seeing how the testing is done. Keys suggested the group watch the video and then give him feedback on the training video. Murken suggested a learning moment to walk us through data interpretation and what we will do with the data.

New Business.

1. Budget Discussions/Watershed Coordinator Job Description Position Review and Consideration. Murken stepped out while the group discussed the budget. The group reviewed the Watershed Coordinator (WC) position, and made minor changes. The updated document is attached. Cox explained that last year it was presented as being in the Conservation budget, but could be county wide, under the BOS budget. Murken mentioned that the WC probably would not cover other conservation duties, but may take over some of the watershed work that Keys has been doing. Murken warned that we cannot overwhelm the WC. The WC will be a coordinator, not an implementor. Harter said she would write a memo on behalf of the WAWG to the BOS recommending the WC position be created. The position will be incorporated into the budget request according to Cox.

Jaynes moved, second by Wall to recommend approval of the Watershed Coordinator job description to the BOS to be incorporated into the Conservation budget for fiscal year 2022. Motion carried unanimously.



watershed
coordinator job des

Murken returned to the meeting. She stated that the group's efforts keep getting put aside to address urgent matters, and at this juncture, she would support the WC position be created.

2. Headwaters WMA. Murken stated that creating the WC position is especially important at this time because there have been efforts to organize the Watershed Management Authority for the headwaters of the South Skunk (see map below). DNR said there is grant money available to assist with watershed assessment. Murken, a member of the WMA board, has been contacting officials to get signatures for the 28E agreement. Cox is spearheading the grant application process, due November 6, 2020. Murken continues to reach out to cities and counties to get involved in this. Cox said the existing WMA members need to get together to endorse the grant application in late November. Murken suggested the bylaws also be adopted by the existing WMA members. Harter has bylaws from another WMA that she will forward to Murken. Cox said recruitment of the board will be part of the grant. Cox will put together a list of stakeholders and a draft letter, and Murken and Jaynes will contact folks for letters. Boeck will develop maps for the grant. Cox contacted the Auditor's Office, and confirmed that Story can be the financial agent for the grant. The grant will request resources for a watershed assessment, outreach, and formation of the WMA board. Cox assumes that if we get the grant, we would outsource the work. Harter said that when the WMA signatures are ready to go and filed for the Secretary of State, the BOS will have to take official action to amend the 28E agreement. Harter will take care of that and have it registered under her name. Murken reemphasized the need for a WC so that attention can also be given to Indian Creek that covers a large portion of the county but does not have a WMA.



headwaters south
skunk map.pdf

3. Hickory Grove Lake Sewage Lagoon. Cox and Murken attended the recent Colo City Council meeting. Council agreed to entertain discussions for an agreement that would allow HGL to connect to Colo's municipal sewer line. Cox hopes that they can get an answer from Colo by the end of the year so construction may begin in spring, 2021. The next step, according to Murken, is for Ethan Anderson to draw up an agreement. Jaynes showed pictures of the lagoon, suggesting that it demonstrates the need to start hauling septage to a municipal treatment plant until we can provide adequate treatment. Cox said that the lagoon is not discharging at this time. Jaynes agreed, but said that it has to be flowing through cracks in the bottom of the lagoon, with no treatment. Cox said that he met with the Iowa Rural Utilities Association, and said that if the county can get an agreement with Colo, they can possibly get the system in this spring (holding tank, lift station, lines). Jaynes suggested that if we do not get an answer from Colo by the end of this year, let's plan on hauling the sewage to a municipal treatment plant. Murken asked if Colo would take RV dump waste. Cox said they are concerned, and DNR suggested it is not recommended. Cox said that he is not sure Colo is aware that they already receive RV dump waste from the Twin Anchor camp ground, and HGL waste is small in comparison. Jaynes said that we need to get a plan in place to haul septage to a municipal plant if we cannot get assurance from Colo that sewage, including RV dump waste, will be accepted.
4. VI. Staff Updates and Assignments -
Wall reported that plans are formulating to develop a wetland project at the Prairie Valley SD, that could involve the drainage district, city, and state. Jaynes reported that the source of the ponded sewage near the Squaw Creek was identified, and enforcement action will take place.
5. VII. Other Items Not on the Agenda – none.
6. VIII. Next Meeting Time and Date – October 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. via zoom. King will take notes
7. IX. Adjournment
Jaynes moved, seconded by Wall, to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret C. Jaynes