

# DRAFT

Watershed Assessment Working Group Minutes  
Administration Building Public Meeting Room and Zoom  
Date: June 5, 2023

Recording:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/TcZQBfsnLujJFfPW2WqWklwLRu4R0jjJgyRe63OsvCY66fD7Wq28ecwkzpAN0uKA.pd2ZDXasp9u-HRhz>

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Committee members present: Leanne Harter, Sara Carmichael, Scott Wall, Linda Murken, Melissa Spencer, Kimberly Grandinetti, Darren Moon, Amelia Schoeneman

Carmichael called the meeting to order at 2:02PM and introduced Pat Sauer from ISWEP. She presented virtually about ISWEP, what it means for the county as a new member, and the legislative bills related to stormwater being tracked. on his work related to PFAS in Iowa. The presentation slides are at the end.

**I. Approval of Agenda**

**II. Presentation from Chris Jones, IIHR Research Engineer (for presentation, visit the recording)**

**III. Review Meeting notes from March 13, 2023**

- Motion to Approve – Wall moved, Harter seconded. Approved.

**IV. Old Business**

**a. Manure Crossing Permit**

- Moon discussed the updates to the permit. Information about the permit was sent out to CAFO's in the county for feedback. Some feedback was given and it will go to BOS in June. Murken brought up the question of how to enforce the permits – potentially working with Sheriffs office. Could be a good opportunity for education.

**b. Critical Natural Resource Areas Ordinance**

- The ordinance has passed and there are clear protections for natural resource areas in the county. This is important due to the most recent Supreme Court decision that non-hydraulic wetlands (or those that are not connected to waters of the US) are no longer protected.

**V. New Business**

**VI. Staff Updates and Assignments**

- Wall – Joint DD Boone#143-Story #8 public hearing meeting happening June 7 to determine if the proposed wetland and ditch clean-out can move forward. IDALS has secured funding to help with tile replacement. Polk/Story DD meeting June 29.
- Carmichael – gave an update from Cox about McFarland Lake Restoration and Soper's Mill access update. Both projects are on hold due to wet conditions. Soper's Mill should be completed by end of month. Carmichael also discussed the 2022 Water Monitoring Report (2<sup>nd</sup> annual) that was written by Prairie Rivers of Iowa and available on the county's [website](#).

**VII. Other Items Not on the Agenda**

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- Harter suggested downloading University of Iowa water monitoring sensor data before they are taken down (referring back to Chris's presentation and the fact that the statewide sensors are only funded through FY24).
- Schoeneman referred to a floodplain/water quality win where P&D helped a landowner remove cows from Indian Creek. The landowner wanted to put a fence perpendicular to the stream for a cow crossing and give them access to drinking water. Floodplain permits would not allow that. IDNR allows landowners to pump up to 15K gallons a day so the landowner decided to move forward with that plan and fence the cows out of the creek.

## **VIII. Next Meeting Time and Date**

- Harter suggested a September meeting at the Ames Water Treatment Plant to have the group take a tour. Carmichael and Harter will work together to schedule the next meeting.

## **IX. Adjournment** – adjourned at 3:20PM by Schoeneman, seconded by Grandinetti.