

Headwaters of the South Skunk River, Watershed Management Authority

April 24, 2024, 10:00 AM

Roland Erickson Park Shelter House – 110 N Park St., Roland, IA

Also available via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members - Linda Murken (Story County), Nathan Hovick (City of Roland), Linda Wild (City of Randall), Brian Lammers (Hamilton County), Alisha Bower (Story County SWCD), and Erik Christian (City of Story City).

Non-voting – Mike Cox, Marianne Harrelson, and Sara Carmichael (Story County Conservation), Kimberly Grandinetti and Laura Johnston (Story County Environmental Health), Kyle Ament (Iowa DNR), Cynthia Farmer (Center for Rural Affairs), and Dustin Albrecht (City of Ames).

1. Meeting is available for public viewing via Zoom.
2. **Call To Order** – by Murken at 10:00 AM
3. **Roll Call** – Introductions of all in attendance
4. **Approval Of Agenda** – MOTION by Hovick, SECOND by Christian. MCU.
5. **Approval Of Minutes** – February 21, 2024 – MOTION by Wild, SECOND by Christian. MCU.
6. **Updates/Old Business**
- 6I. **Review of Planning Document/Next Steps** – The board reviewed the document and discussed the status of the items. Murken updated the document prior to the meeting by replacing the “bullet” with a “checkmark” to show which items were completed. Carmichael updated the HW WMA brochure and will email it to all members. Murken will make updates to the document for the next meeting.
- 6II. **Discussion on Ways to Communicate with the WMA** – Members discussed some email and website options. Carmichael will check with Story County’s IT department about setting up an email for the public to contact members of the WMA. The brochure can be printed and distributed to the NRCS offices.
7. **New Business**
- 7I. **Grant Opportunities** – Sara Carmichael, Story County Watershed Coordinator, informed the board about possible grant opportunities. The grants may not necessarily be for the WMA but she wanted members to know what grants are available.
- 7II. **Legislative Updates (WMA’s, Stormwater Ordinances, CAFO Regulations)** – Cynthia Farmer, Center for Rural Affairs, updated the board on the past legislative session and the positive showing at the WMA Day at Capitol on January 29th. There were 15 people, representing 22 of the 29 WMA’s. The Department of Agriculture introduced a bill in the House that had some restrictive measures and name change requirements for WMA’s in the state. The name change requirements did not move forward. In addition to the name change requirements, there would have been restrictions on water quality and nutrient strategy dollars being spent from any source and would have to be focused on the nutrient reduction strategies practices offered by the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy. She also updated the board on Senate File 455 – Stormwater Regulation, which passed and was signed by the Governor. The CAFO Regulations bill did not move forward past the Senate.
- 7III. **Planning for Statewide WMAS Meeting** – Cynthia Farmer is planning a statewide WMA meeting, tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, August 28th from 10 AM to 3 PM in Ames (exact location TBD). Details are still being worked out, but there will possibly be a tour of a water facility in Ames, a session on best practices for connecting with your legislators, a panel on some of the funding mechanisms within the state, and an

interactive discussion and brainstorming. The kickoff speaker will be Larry Weber with the Iowa Flood Center.

8. Member Updates

9. Public Comments

10. Next Meeting – Wednesday, July 24, 2024, at 10:00 AM at the City of Ames Water Treatment Plant.

11. Adjournment – at 11:18 AM. MOTION by Hovick, SECOND by Christian.

12. Tour of Story City Stormwater Retention Structure