

Headwaters of the South Skunk River, Watershed Management Authority

October 2, 2024, 10:00 AM

Gilbert Community Room – 105 SE 2nd St, Gilbert, IA

Also available via Zoom

Co-WMA Meeting: Headwaters and loway

Attendees:

Voting Members for Headwaters – Linda Murken (Story County), Linda Wild (City of Randall), Rick Young (Hamilton County), Alisha Bower (Story County SWCD), and Erik Christian (City of Story City).

Other Members for Headwaters – Sara Carmichael (Story County Conservation), Kimberly Grandinetti and Laura Johnston (Story County Environmental Health), Kyle Ament (Iowa DNR), Cynthia Farmer (Center for Rural Affairs), Dustin Albrecht (City of Ames), Catherine Delong (Iowa State University), Brian Lammers (Hamilton County Conservation), and Kurtis Bower (City of Roland).

Other Members for loway – Tim Mattingly (City of Gilbert), Jeremy Johannsen (Boone NRCS), Seldon Spencer (Story County SWCD).

1. Meeting is available for public viewing via Zoom. [Link](#), Passcode: U4Tis^xE
2. **Call To Order** – by Murken at 10:04 AM
3. **Roll Call** – Introductions of all in attendance. Albrecht mentioned he is asking the City to approve him as a board member for Headwaters at the Oct 8 council meeting. Murken said it would be good to have him for loway too. Tim Gartin is currently the City representative for loway.
4. **Approval Of Agenda** – MOTION by A. Bower, SECOND by Young. MCU.
5. **Approval Of Minutes** – April 24, 2024 – MOTION by Wild, SECOND by Christian. MCU.
6. **Old & New Business**
- 6.I. **Review of Statewide WMA Meeting and Other Dual WMA's** – Cynthia Farmer gave a presentation of the information gathered at the all-WMA meeting in August. Others that attended the meeting also provided information on what was learned including ways to engage board members, using direct mailing to advertise what's happening in the WMA, and some funding resources. Farmer also presented on how other WMAs in the state have dual meetings. Each WMA still have their own board and voting, but combine efforts on hosting meetings and projects.
- 6.II. **Information on Cover Crop programs** – Carmichael provided handouts related to cost-share opportunities for farmers interested in cover crops. One can be found at this [link](#) from the Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance. Young brought up an event that happens every July with Becks seed. Could be an opportunity to educate about the WMAs and cover crops.
- 6.III. **Discussion and Direction** – The majority of the meeting was centered around how the two WMAs can meet and work together. The following questions were answered in some form.
 - Would there be value in Headwaters and loway WMAs working together?
 - If so, how would we organize the effort?
 - Key issues to move forward on/challenges/how to overcome. Thoughts about legislative strategy.Young and K. Bower believe having more people in the room and joining the two groups will bring more diversity and new solutions. It will also help with limiting the number of meetings those in both groups would need to attend, specifically City of Ames, Story County, Hamilton County, and Boone County. Grandinetti mentioned a lot of positives were said about joining, are there any negatives? A. Bower mentioned

that not everyone is part of both WMAs.

Spencer mentioned that Steve Carlson from Boone SWCD might be interested in joining. Also, will want to get the new mayor of Stanhope involved. Young said that Kelly Wirtz, mayor of Stanhope, is interested in learning more about the group.

Murken suggested her and Spencer will review both WMA bylaws and officers. The next agenda will have more discussion and possible voting on chair and vice chairs. There will need to be two elections.

Ament mentioned that the East and West Nishnabotna WMAs hold meetings together and it has run smoothly for years. Also, suggested that in the future could look at inviting Boone River WMA to join a meeting once per year. That WMA is having some difficulty staying active.

Murken asked the group: do we need to find money to figure out what we want to do. Wild, and majority, said figure out what we want to do and then secure money.

- 7. Member Updates** – Murken suggested everyone listen to the Iowa Learning Farms webinar titled Motivational Barriers to Implementing Conservation from July 17, 2024. Link:

<https://www.iowalearningfarms.org/resources/robyn-wilson>

Delong provided a link to survey results related to Iowa Farmers and the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy for the Des Moines Watershed. Link: <https://store.extension.iastate.edu/Product/16255>

Christian provided information related to recent field day and research being done on his farm with Iowa State. It is a corn/nitrate management program and partially funded by Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance. Reach out to him for more information.

Alisha Bower mentioned that Story County is putting forward a bond on the November ballot to fund conservation efforts.

Lammers mentioned that Sen. Dawson is bringing forward a statewide sales tax increase bill. Need other legislators to support this effort.

Wild mentioned that Carmichael is presenting to OLLI participants on October 22nd from 9-10:30am.

- 8. Public Comments**

- 9. Next Meeting** – Tuesday November 19th 1-3pm at Gilbert Community Room

- 10. Adjournment** – at 11:50 AM. MOTION by Spencer, SECOND by A. Bower.