

**Joint Meeting of the  
Headwaters of the South Skunk River Watershed Management Authority  
and  
Ioway Creek Watershed Management Authority  
January 13, 2025 – 10:00 AM  
Randall City Hall – 450 Main St, Randall, IA  
Also available via Zoom**

*Attendees: \*= Both Headwaters and Ioway Members*

**Voting Members for Headwaters** – \*Dustin Albrecht (City of Ames), Erik Christian (City of Story City), Brian Lammers (Hamilton County), \*Cindy McCollough (Hamilton County SWCD), \*Linda Murken (Story County), Mark Tjelmeland (Story County SWCD), Linda Wild (City of Randall), and \*Rick Young (Hamilton County). = 8 (Quorum met)

**Voting Members for Ioway** – \*Dustin Albrecht (City of Ames), \*Cindy McCollough (Hamilton County SWCD), \*Linda Murken (Story County), Seldon Spencer (Story County SWCD), Chelsie Wilson (Boone County), Kelly Wirtz (City of Stanhope), and \*Rick Young (Hamilton County). = 7 (Quorum met)

**Technical Team Members** – Sara Carmichael (Story County Conservation), Michael Cox (Story County Conservation), Cynthia Farmer (Center for Rural Affairs), and Dan Haug (Prairie Rivers of Iowa).

**Presenters** – Heartland Co-op: Will Hoffmann, Nolan Grove, Ruth McCabe

1. Meeting is available for public viewing via Zoom. [Link](#), Passcode: Mb1MDt?7
2. **Call To Order** – by Murken at 10:03 AM. Cindy McCollough and Dan Haug joined at 10:14 AM.
3. **Roll Call/Introductions/Members Update** – Introductions of all in attendance.
4. **Approval Of Revised Headwaters Agenda** – MOTION by Lammers, SECOND by McCollough. Roll Call Vote (MCU).  
**Approval Of Revised Ioway Agenda** – MOTION by Spencer, SECOND by Wilson. Roll Call Vote (MCU).
5. **Approval Of Prior Headwaters Minutes** – November 19, 2024 – MOTION by Wild, SECOND by Albrecht. Roll Call Vote (MCU).  
**Approval Of Prior Ioway Minutes** – MOTION by Spencer, SECOND by Wirtz. Roll Call Vote (MCU).
6. **Revision Of Ioway Creek Bylaw Updated 2016.10.13** – MOTION by Spencer, SECOND by Wirtz. Roll Call Vote (MCU).
7. **Goals For Watershed Work**
  - I. **Presentation – Cover Crop Seedling – Heartland Co-Op**
    - i. [Presentation](#)
      1. Ruth McCabe, Heartland Co-op Conservation Manager  
515-418-8358, [rmccabe@heartlandcoop.com](mailto:rmccabe@heartlandcoop.com)
      2. Will Hoffmann, Heartland Co-op Conservation Agronomist (going to Western Iowa)
      3. Nolan Grove, Heartland Co-op Conservation Agronomist (taking Will’s position for Central Iowa)  
515-971-8278, [ngrove@heartlandcoop.com](mailto:ngrove@heartlandcoop.com)

Presentation: Cover Crop Program implemented in Pilot Year 2021 and worked with partners to get a Hagie (Cover Crop Interseeder)-housed in Colo. Heartland Co-op maintains seeder. Better seed to soil contact with row by row application. Cover 120 acres without refill. This program is available to anyone, don’t have to be a Heartland customer. Program consists of 13 counties within priority watersheds. During the 4-year program, they increased acres every year (2021=3,000; 2022=7,158; 2023=7,731; 2024=10,228). Goal for 2025 is 12,000. Pricing: \$12/acre priority sign up (June & July), \$14/acre in-season sign up (August onward), \$6/acre post-harvest sign up (harvested fields); can provide their own seed but needs to be clean.

Discussion of cover crop field day in Hamilton County with Heartland Co-op. Young will reach out to farmer to gauge interest in hosting field day.

II. **Presentation – Hamilton Watershed Work – Kyle Ament** – rescheduled for next meeting

III. **Discuss Chapter 6: Education Plan – Thoughts** – will discuss next meeting

IV. **Discuss Baker And DeLong’s Presentation – Thoughts**

Discussion:

- Murken noticed that over half of the land is being farmed by tenants. A good share of the landowners are female.
- McCollough responded there is getting to be more younger female farmers too.
- Wild asked what do farmers listen to; do they still listen to the radio?
- Spencer stated addressing financial argument is lacking. Improving farm and soil and making your farm more profitable, having a higher resale value.
- Tjelmeland stated that what they didn’t address in the presentation is rental/crop share agreements. Murken responded that they didn’t get any traditionalist. How much farming practices have changed since we’ve been kids.
- Murken said that they are recruiting for 2025 cohorts. They want to do the program again. Worthwhile to find folks? Spencer replied absolutely. Take anything to keep the conservation going and something is better than nothing. It would be great to get the absentee landowners involved.

Promoting the 2025 Study: Murken said she will contact Stephanie @ Women Food & Ag Network (WFAN) to tell them about the program. She will also get from Catherine DeLong program details to share and contact information so WMA members can share.

V. **Gazette Article – Edge Of Field Practices** – from Linda Wild

Discussion:

- Water monitoring: Carmichael responded Iowa State has completed decades of research. These practices do work. Dependent on actual location, nitrate usage, and topography of drainage. If a landowner is interested in seeing how much nitrate their saturated buffer is decreasing, they can work with ISU to get that installed.
- Haug responded if you monitor in the stream, do you have a critical mass going on with the stream?
- Murken talked with representative Dennis Guth, a discussion of water quality, he said “Iowa has a nitrate problem”. Showing that it’s not going away.

VI. **Goals For 2025**

Other:

- Wild provided another article from the Des Moines Register. Last year republicans abolished the Watershed Planning Advisor Counsel and continued to continue to attack Iowa’s 29 WMAs the only public entities that big ag doesn’t control directly or indirectly.
- Spencer provided an old Ioway WMA Brochure from Hamilton County. Haug will see if he has it for update.

8. **Update – Upcoming Legislative Session – Cynthia Farmer**

No updates due to session just starting. Governor Reynolds Condition of the State tomorrow, January 14th @ 6:00pm. No WMA rumblings so far. Let Farmer know if you want to be added to the email list for legislative updates.

9. **Public Comments** – None. No public members

10. **Next Meeting** – Monday, March 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00am - 12:00pm at Stanhope Community Center, Stanhope, Iowa

- I. Farmer invited anyone to (Conservation Districts of Iowa) CDI Day on Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> @ Iowa State Capitol.
- II. Field Day – Cover Crop Seedling – Heartland Co-Op
  - i. Who do we invite to Field Day? Want farmers. How can we get it set up?
    1. McCollough: Organic Farmers Association, Practical Farmers of Iowa (PFI), Women Food & Ag Network (WFAN), and Iowa Women in Ag.
  - ii. Financial aspect (cover crop summary information for tenants and landowners): Murken to follow up.

11. **Adjournment** – at 11:58 AM.