

**Joint Meeting of the
Headwaters of the South Skunk River Watershed Management Authority
and
Ioway Creek Watershed Management Authority
March 10, 2025 - 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Stanhope Community Center - Stanhope, 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), Mick Walker (City of Jewell), and Linda Wild (City of Randall). = 8 (Quorum met)

Voting Members for Ioway – *Dustin Albrecht (City of Ames), Brian Lammers-alternate (Hamilton County), *Cindy McCollough (Hamilton County SWCD), *Linda Murken (Story County), Seldon Spencer (Story County SWCD), Kelly Wirtz (City of Stanhope), and Diana Wright-alternate (Boone County SWCD). = 7 (Quorum met)

Technical Team Members – Kyle Ament (Iowa Department of Natural Resources), Sara Carmichael (Story County Conservation), Catherine DeLong (Iowa State University Extension), Cynthia Farmer (Center for Rural Affairs).

1. Meeting is available for public viewing via Zoom. [Link](#), Passcode: ml56A#JZ
2. **Call To Order** – by Murken at 10:06 AM. Seldon Spencer joined at 10:10 AM.
3. **Roll Call/Introductions/Members Update** – Introductions of all in attendance.
4. **Approval Of Agenda**
 - 4.I. Headwaters Agenda – Approved by Roll Call Vote (MCU).
 - 4.II. Ioway Agenda – Approved by Roll Call Vote (MCU).
5. **Approval Of Prior Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2025**
 - 5.I. Headwaters Minutes – Approved by Roll Call Vote (MCU).
 - 5.II. Ioway Minutes – Approved by Roll Call Vote (MCU).
6. **Discussion And Consideration Of Leanne Harter, Director Of Story County Planning And Zoning, As The Duly Authorized Representative Of The Headwaters Of The South Skunk River Watershed Management Authority For The Specific Purpose Of Renewing Its SAM.gov Registration** – MOTION by Wild, SECOND by Lammers. Roll Call Vote (MCU).
7. **Plan For Cover Crop Field Day:** Murken updated on how Field Day came about. Talked with Liz Ripley (ILF) on planning and came up with the following agenda. They provide the resources. More information on the Hagie-Montag Fortifier Cover Crop Interseeder can be found at <https://www.covercroppartnership.com/>.

-Proposed Date and Time:

Possible date: last week of July, first of August. Avoid July 28th due to Hamilton County Fair. Have it Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday at 10:00 AM. Work with Heartland for the date and time. **UPDATE: Tentative date July 17th, 10:30am-Noon.**

-Proposed Location: Ruth at Heartland emailed and Tim Blomgren's site is not going to work. Going to see if other farms are going to work. **NEW SITE: Alex Woodall - 2269 350th St, Stanhope (Hwy 175, between Stanhope and Jewell).**

-Co-Hosts: Iowa Learning Farms (ILF), Heartland Co-op, Headwaters of the South Skunk River WMA, Ioway Creek WMA

-Details: ILF can provide tents, tables and chairs, PA system, portable toilets, directional signs.

-Meal: ILF can pay for it. Ideas for local business to cater? RSVP through ILF. Food ideas: Cattleman, Pork Producers, Turkey Producer, Stanhope Locker (meat), Jewell Market (sides).

-Invitations: Organizations to invite: FFA, 4-H, Iowa Corn, Iowa Soybean, Organic Association, PFI, Iowa State Alumni Association-Hamilton County. ILF can design and mail if we can provide mailing lists for them to use for this purpose only. For example: Edge-of-field landowners. They can also do a broad reach through NRCS offices. Want the Community of Stanhope to be informed and other cities in the area to advertise. Goal is to get farmers there. Get Heartland list of customers. **Mailing lists to Liz by June 13th.**

-Program:

1. **Presentation (90 Minutes).** Co-Hosts
2. **Demo on one crop:** spray, turn around. About 15 mins
3. **Lunch**

Christian asked how do we quantify the impact, what kind of outcome will be from the field day? There will be an evaluation with an online or paper survey. Could work with Liz about adding some questions.

Sara and Linda will work with Liz (ILF) and Ruth (Heartland) and will keep the group updated.

8. **Presentation: Keigley Branch/LDC Land Use Assessment – Hamilton Co. Watershed Work - Kyle Ament, DNR**

-Refer to Zoom recording and presentation link for more details.

-Economic impacts? Resources: [Cover Crop Economics](#) provided by Delong.

Countywide progress: McCollough talked about for Hamilton County, Soil Conservation, have put a focus on Long Dick Creek, priority (part of the 5-year plan). They could come up with a list of landowners. Wild stated that people are dumping stuff (vegetable plant debris, dead hog) into Long Dick Creek. Get a mailing list around the Keigley area. Lammers will reach out to their GIS in Hamilton County for contact information. Ioway Creek Study was done 10 years old ago. DNR have funds to update the study? Intent on cover crops are there but it is weather dependent.

9. **Legislative Update – Cynthia Farmer, Center For Rural Affairs**

Reached 1st funnel date: 2 major bills

1) [Senate Joint Resolution 6](#) (amendment to the Iowa Constitution): repeal IWLL (Iowa's Water & Land Legacy), alleviate property tax. Cutting all these taxes, worried about funding. Likely tax to be raised is the sales tax. Lots of opposition. If it would pass, it would take effect in 2028.

2) Iowa Environmental Council worked with Representative Megan Jones and Senator Lynn Evans (both in Spencer area): wanting green, natural (wetlands, floodplains, ax bowes, etc) infrastructure, nothing "gray" infrastructure (physical barriers) would have stopped flooding. Considered dead, however, the Governor has a natural hazard mitigation bill that Jones and Evans want pieces of their bill amended to the Governor's bill. Could still give counties the ability to look at green, natural infrastructure to protect their water supply, city, etc. As a county, it makes essential purpose vs general purpose; county would be able to bond without voters approving that bond (giving counties an option).

10. **When to Work On Longer-Range Goals** – after the Field Day.

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

12. **Next Meeting – May** – Monday, May 19 @ 10:00 AM in Stanhope

13. **Adjournment** – MOTION by Spencer, SECOND by Albrecht. Adjourned at 11:40 AM.