

**Joint Meeting of the
Headwaters of the South Skunk River Watershed Management Authority
and
Ioway Creek Watershed Management Authority
May 19, 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), and Linda Wild (City of Randall). = 7 (Quorum met), Kurtis Bower (City of Roland)

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

Technical Team Members – Sara Carmichael (Story County Conservation), Cynthia Farmer (Center for Rural Affairs)-via Zoom.

1. Meeting is available for public viewing via Zoom. [Link](#), Passcode: 85bmWTf@
2. **Call To Order** – by Murken at 10:13 AM.
3. **Roll Call/Introductions/Members Update** – Roll Called for Headwaters and Ioway. Give any appointments for Member Alternates to Joy.
4. **Approval Of Agenda**
 - 4.I. Headwaters Agenda – MOTION by Lammers, SECOND by Albrecht. MCU.
 - 4.II. Ioway Agenda – MOTION by Spencer, SECOND by Wilson. MCU.
5. **Approval Of Prior Meeting Minutes – March 10, 2025**
 - 5.I. Headwaters Minutes – MOTION by Wild, SECOND by Tjelmeland. MCU.
 - 5.II. Ioway Minutes – MOTION by Wilson, SECOND by McCollough. MCU.
6. **Plan For Cover Crop Field Day**
 - Proposed Date and Time:** July 17th, 10:30am-12:30pm, Program 10:30-Noon; Lunch Noon-12:30pm
 - Proposed Location:** Alex Woodall Farm - 2263 350th St, Stanhope (corrected)
 - Partners:** IFL, Heartland Co-op, Headwaters of the South Skunk River WMA, Ioway Creek WMA
7. **Update Plans – Sara Carmichael And Liz Ripley (Iowa Learning Farms)**
 - Invitees: need lists of names and addresses to Liz by Friday, 6/13/25** send postcards/mailings. Get word out through social, local newspapers (South Hamilton Record-News in Jewell and Freeman Journal in Webster City), and radio (KQWC Radio-Webster City (Friday Community Corner) and KWGB 101.5 FM-Boone). 3 weeks out to RSVP for lunch. Goal to get farmers, anyone interested in cover crops, and landowners. Plan to do a 30-mile radius mailing from the location.. Mailers funded by ILF. Liz and Sara will reach out to Practical Farmers. Should put flyer on websites and post throughout communities. Include the Iowa Farm Leader Awards to the list.

Tjelmeland brought up glycoside and Bayer deciding to take it off the market, what is the alternative? Good question for Heartland. McCollough thought that uncertified sprayers could not get it in store, but farmers can still use it. Tjelmeland said that they have 180 lawsuits. McCollough is trying 40% vinegar solution (IDALS approved) to kill cover crops. Testing on an alfalfa field but may not work on a perennial.

-Program: about cover crops. Heartland there with Hagee High Boy, has literature and cost share. There will be a sound system. Will start with Liz (ILF)-Intro, logistic, presentation of cover crop (the rain model). Then see the seeder with Heartland-Intro, talk about cover crops in detail, demo, and questions. Then the meal.

Spencer wants to know more about glyphosate. Know if some people can't use it, then they won't do cover crops. It's been the most economical and works well. Sara will mention it to Ruth so that she is aware that it will come up so she is prepared. Also, alternatives for glyphosate.

Tables: Have Conservation and Water Quality 2025 by Farm Bureau newspaper (qty 50). ILF and Heartland will have information. Murken wants information about our WMAs printed with Sara and Joy working on it.

-Meal: Liz confirmed with Sara and Silver Spoon Catering out of Ellsworth will be the cater. Menu will be pulled pork, Italian pasta salad, fruit, assorted cookies, and water. Lunch planned for about 40 people.

-Desired Outcomes: brainstorm

McCullough said attendance is a big plus. At the end, asked to fill out a paper survey. Then 1 week later an email survey from ILF. Basic question will be on there (ex. Have you used cover crops?). Christian said with wanting people to plant more cover crops and gauging their interest before and after the event is the easiest thing.

Tjelmeland said Pheasants Forever has money for cover crop subsidies. They have precision cultivation by analyzing farm per acre and determining how much you're losing on marginal ground.

Tjelmeland said that programs that target farmers who are landowners are the prime group to be hitting. Bower said to target September 1st before contracts go out on leases where it would help with negotiations.

Wilson said with local USDA losing 50% of staff this spring and farmers losing trust there are concerns with CC sign-up. McCullough said farmers are concerned about their pay, so not sure if they should sign up for a program because there is no money. Confirmed that CRP is open now.

Murken addressed the question of what barriers there are for planting cover crops. The barrier is the planting (going over it again and again). Maybe put in the survey what are the barriers. Tjelmeland suggested Heartland should talk about pros and cons of cover crops. Murken said to ask Liz about any cost analysis they have.

8. Legislative Update – Cynthia Farmer, Center For Rural Affairs

Legislative session wrapped up last week, got budget passed. No bills that impacted WMAs were passed or even considered other than IWiLL. The Natural Infrastructure Bill for the Governor did not include the flood mitigation efforts.. Some legislators are working on an interim item to draft some language into a bill for next year.

Didn't pass any property tax reform. Senate file 394 (relating to Roundup/pesticides) passed Senate but not the House and thinks that it will be back next year. As of now, we don't know yet if the governor will sign the bill on Eminent Domain.

Suggested inviting legislators in that area to ILF Field Day. It's an important way to get them involved and build relationships.

Note: Kyle Ament (was DNR representative for Technical Advisor) has new job at Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship.

9. Public Comments – None. No public members.

10. Next Meetings

-Field Day, Thursday, July 17th, RSVP lunch with flyer

-Regular meeting: Monday, September 15th 10:00am-12:00pm, Stanhope Community Center

11. Adjournment – MOTION by Spencer, SECOND by Albrecht. Adjourned at 11:25 AM.