

Headwaters of the South Skunk River, Watershed Management Authority
January 24, 2022, 10:00 AM
Community Center – Roland, IA
Also available via Zoom

Attendees:

Voting Members - Linda Murken (Story County), Nathan Hovick (City of Roland), Erik Christian (City of Story City), and Alisha Bower (Story Soil and Water Conservation District).

Non-voting – Neil Weiss (City of Ames), Mike Cox (Story County Conservation), Kimberly Grandinetti (Story County Environmental Health), Brian Lammers (Hamilton County Conservation), Sara Carmichael (Story County Conservation), Kate Hansen (Center for Rural Affairs), Kyle Ament (Iowa Department of Natural Resources), Ben Dodd (Iowa Department of Natural Resources) Marianne Harrelson (Story County Conservation), Dalton Johnston (City of Roland), Brian Hill (Hall Backhoe & Tiling), Emily Perrott (JEO Consulting Group), Caleb Rasmussen (JEO Consulting Group), Adam Rupe (JEO Consulting Group), and Mike Heller (JEO Consulting Group). Rick Young (Hamilton County), Catherine DeLong (ISU Extension), and Leanne Harter (Story County) via Zoom.

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 and via Zoom
4. **Approval Of Agenda** – MOTION by Bower, SECOND by Hovick. MCU.
5. **Approval Of Minutes** – November 18, 2021 – MOTION by Hovick, SECOND by Bower. MCU.
- 6I. **Discussion Of Amending The 28E Agreement** – Murken indicated that the City of Ames’ attorney had some issues with the agreement and we are still working through the document.
- 7I. **Amendment To The Bylaws** – Submission and review of proposed bylaws amendment to allow for alternate members to be appointed and to vote at meetings, establishing the audit point as Story County Administration Building, and clarifying that a simple majority is sufficient to pass a measure submitted for vote at a regular meeting.
- 7II. **JEO General Project Update** – Adam Rupe reviewed the project schedule that indicates we are completing task number two and starting to move into the action plan. We are about halfway through the process and have approximately four planning meetings left. The vision and goals were adopted at the last meeting and the case studies were discussed. The case studies include the urban stormwater BMPs, in-field and edge of field practices and implementation, and streambank stabilization. The homework from this meeting was to start thinking about priorities for implementation. Adam clarified the process for reviewing the plan. Chapters one, two, and three are under internal review. The drafts will be sent out to the planning team in the next couple of weeks for review and then they will be sent to all of the WMA members and technical team to review.
- 7III. **Consideration Of Watershed Resource Inventory And Assessment Of Issues** – Adam indicated that this would include chapters one and two. Chapter two includes the watershed inventory –climate, landform topography, soil, physical water resources, etc. Chapter three, will start describe water quality data and

existing BMPs – things that are more related to “watershed management”. Adam reviewed and referred to the watershed map that was included with the agenda. The map shows the watershed, the county boundaries, communities, major recreation sites, and streams and lakes. The next map shows the floodplain, water quality monitoring sites, and impaired lakes and streams. The charts show annual monitoring levels on the South Skunk River. The maps on the bottom of the page represent the mapping status of potential BMPs; drainage districts; watershed soils; land use & habitat; pollutant sources; and Iowa landforms.

JEO handed out a draft Technical Memo on Existing BMPs. This document goes through all of the BMPs that we’re considering as part of the plan, summarizes the data sources and what the BMP estimates are, and identifies recommendations for additional data needs. Adam reviewed and highlighted some of the findings documented in the memo. He would like for members to provide information for existing urban BMPs that they are aware of in their areas. JEO is currently contacting local communities to try to get this information as well. There was some discussion about having JEO do ACPF mapping of the whole watershed. JEO will work with Murken to review the contract and see what options are available for getting this done. Members provided quite a few other contacts for JEO to see if they can contact to get more information and data to include in the plan.

Adam also reviewed some information about water quality data in the watershed. There are some sites in the watershed that have water quality data, but most are missing information and not complete. The City of Ames has data available for sites above and below the water treatment plant that they will share with JEO to include in the plan.

No action was taken at this time until the details discussed at this meeting are updated in the document.

- 7IV. Discuss Priority Area Identification** – This was discussed at the last meeting and Adam wanted to review the highlights. The watershed plan is going to follow a targeted approach within the priority areas, likely based on HUC 12 boundaries. That will allow us to target those resources, see results on a smaller scale, and that will become a scalable process that we can repeat project by project. It will offer the opportunity for WMA partners to work on other priority projects at the same time in another area. There are two general approaches for identifying these priorities. One is data-driven, which is essentially the water quality data. The other is the WMA or partner priorities, which may be certain projects that are important to the members or individuals that you feel need to be addressed. If members have any ideas for the priority areas, please let Adam know.
- 7V. Discuss BMP Targets** – Adam noted that the information going into the implementation plan will be the estimated level of needs for BMP, mostly based on the ACPF data and any other partner input. This will assist with getting counts and estimated costs for the watershed and priority areas. Adam will be sending out a master list of BMPs that we will consider for the plan. Adam passed out a “Whole Farm Conservation Best Practices Manual”. This provides a great overview of each of the major BMPs and guidance to landowners and conservation professionals on where and how to implement them and decision tools.
- 7VI. Next Steps** – At the next meeting, we will be talking about the action plan, the education plan, and implementation priorities. If you have suggestions for the “Learning Moments” please send them to Adam at JEO. Homework – Adam would like to have some photographs from the watershed. If anyone has photos that show conservation practices, sites along the rivers, pollution problems, or aerial photos – something that we can put in the plan to help illustrate concepts or to make it a visual document.
- 8. Other Reports** - Caleb Rasmussen, with JEO Consulting Group, shared some information about the water quality blitz going on in the area, sponsored by Polk County. Sara Carmichael is also involved with this project. Caleb’s role is the design and implementation of the projects. Polk County, the NRCS, and other

partners contacted landowners and received information from them on tile, they did surveys, and they gathered any other information needed to design them. Caleb takes this information, evaluates the site for feasibility on saturated buffers or bioreactors, then provides a recommendation and a cost estimate. During this first round, sixty sites were evaluated in Polk, Boone, Story, and Dallas County and an additional twenty to twenty-five tile outlets were brought forward to be reviewed for implementation of a saturated buffer or bioreactor. The first review is always for a saturated buffer. They have a longer design life and are cheaper to install. If a saturated buffer is not feasible, then they look at a bioreactor to be installed. If none of those were feasible, then nothing was proposed to be done with the tile outlet. Currently, there are approximately ten tile outlets within this watershed to have saturated buffers installed, treating about 500 acres.

8. **Public Comments** - None
10. **Next Meeting** – Scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2022, at 10:00 AM at the Roland Community Center. This will be a longer meeting to allow for a work session. Plan to bring your own lunch.
11. **Adjournment** – at 12:08 PM. MOTION by Bower, SECOND by Christian. MCU.