

Meeting Minutes
North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition Annual Meeting
Friday, January 21, 2022 at 10:00 am

The quarterly meeting of the NRRWMC was called to order at 10:00 am by chair Johnathan Gano, city of Des Moines. Roll call was completed with 20 members present via teleconference and proxy votes which does represent a quorum (21 members needed for quorum). The acronym NRR in these minutes stands for the North Raccoon River watershed.

Jonathan Gano, chair

Point of Order - Key questions were raised on term limits and making a good faith effort on gender balance asked by Don Etler, Palo Alto county representative. After discussion, the points of order were resolved to the chair's satisfaction, quorum was determined, and business proceeded.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

PROJECT UPDATES:

Cara Elbert, NWIPDC: To date, we have expended \$1,297,783 or 53.8% of the total \$2,411,929 grant.

Tyler Baumbach with WHKS provided an update on continued contract work in the watershed.

GUEST SPEAKERS:

Ducks Unlimited – Mike Shannon and Annina Rupe

- Ducks Unlimited focuses on conservation that helps to protect water fowl. Since 1937 they have conserved over 15 million acres. The prairie pothole region is critical to their efforts.
- Since 1985 they have conserved thousands of acres in Iowa, mostly on public lands working with IDNR and US Fish and Wildlife Service. They have worked with Blackhawk Lake in Lakeview (in the NRR).
- They like ducks primarily, but water quality benefits also come with wetland restoration work. They are collaborating more deeply with IDALS and have recently completed projects in Buena Vista and Calhoun county in partnership with IDALS.
- Annina provided an overview of how Ducks Unlimited models potential wetland sites for the Conservation Reserve Easement Program (CREP).
 - o Most nitrate reduction comes from wetland less than 3 feet in depth.
 - o Start by looking for existing depressions using LiDAR (light detection and ranging). This dataset is available for free statewide with resolution up to 1 meter.

Update from East-West Nishnabotna Watershed – Cara Morgan, watershed coordinator

- [Link to Power Point Presentation](#)

IWA Watershed Member Survey Results – Valerie Decker, Univ. of Iowa

- Link to Power Point Presentation

RCCP Update – Theo Gunther, Iowa Soybean Association

- Link to Power Point Presentation
- Work on oxbow restorations began in fall 2021
- New conservation agronomist to start Jan. 31

Discussion on pursuing EPA 319 funding – Jonathan Gano, chair

- The executive committee has been working with Kyle Ament, IDNR, to explore whether our watershed plan approved in 2019 can qualify the NRR for EPA 319 funding.
- Kyle is acting as lead point person in discussing aspects of the plan with EPA and the WMA.
 - o The plan gives highest priority to the following subwatersheds:
 - Headwaters Cedar Creek
 - Headwaters North Raccoon River
 - Lateral 2
 - Outlet Creek
 - Headwaters Little Cedar Creek
 - Wall Lake Inlet
- EPA has asked clarifying questions and a draft alternative proposal to qualify. If approved EPA 319 funding will qualify the watershed for funding that could last a decade or more, and support a coordinator and water quality monitoring.
- Motion to approve Kyle Ament and IDNR continue with this proposal to pursue EPA 319 funding with an alternative plan focused on these 6 subwatersheds.
 - o Moved by Bob Rice, Polk county; seconded by Dave Guthrie, city of Grimes. Motion carries.

The meeting adjourned at 12:12 pm.

Next meeting will be Friday, April 15, 2022 at 10 am.

Members present:

Name	Location	Entity
Bob Ockerman	Adel	City
Susan Judkins	Clive	City
Jonathan Gano	Des Moines	City
Dave Guthrie	Grimes	City
Hilary Reed	Laurens	City
Jack Butler	Perry	City
Keri Navratil	Storm Lake	City
Dave Sadler	West D M	City
Paul Merten	Buena Vista	County
Carl Legore	Calhoun	County
Dean Schettler	Carroll	County
Mark Hanson	Dallas	County
John Muir	Greene	County
Keith Wirtz	Palo Alto	County
Clarence Siepker	Pocahontas	County
Bob Rice	Polk	County

Jim Wissler	Sac	County
Al Wedemeyer	Calhoun	SWCD
Stephen Reinart	Carroll	SWCD
Eric Wessels	Dallas	SWCD
Fred Long	Greene	SWCD
Jim Gillespie	Madison	SWCD
Katie Rock	Polk	SWCD
Don Sandell	Webster	SWCD