

Meeting Minutes
North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition Annual Meeting
Friday, June 25, 2021 at 10:00 am

The quarterly meeting of the NRRWMC was called to order at 10:00 am by chair Keri Navratil, city of Storm Lake. Roll call was completed with 22 members present via teleconference and proxy votes which represents a quorum (21 members needed for quorum). The acronym NRR in these minutes stands for the North Raccoon River watershed.

Election of Officers & Approval of Previous Minutes – Keri Navratil, Chair

For chair:

- Nomination of Jonathan Gano, city of Des Moines, for chair by Keri Navratil, Storm Lake; second by Brian Waldstein, Buena Vista SWCD.
 - o Voted unanimously by voice vote

For vice chair:

- Nomination of Fred Long, Greene SWCD, for vice chair by Keri Navratil, Storm Lake; second by Mark Hanson, Dallas county.
 - o Voted unanimously by voice vote.

For secretary:

- Nomination of Katie Rock, Polk SWCD, for secretary by Keri Navratil, Storm Lake; second by Bob Rice, Polk county.
 - o Voted unanimously by voice vote.

For treasurer:

- Nomination of Dean Schettler, for treasurer by Mark Hanson, Dallas county; second by Katie Rock, Polk SWCD.
 - o Voted unanimously by voice vote.

Outgoing chair Keri Navratil remains on the executive committee as past chair.

Financial & Project Updates – Cara Elbert, NWIPDC and Kevin Griggs, WHKS-EOR Design Team

CARA, NWIPDC:

- Financial update through June 30, 2021 = have spent \$1,620,304, which is 52% expended from the fund with \$1,151,625 remaining

KEVIN & TYLER, EOR:

- Bids will open June 28, 2021 online for contractors for projects. The 4 projects that will be made available are all within a mile of each other in Buena Vista county.
- BV county has a list of expenses tied to coalition work that they are awaiting reimbursement.

Unemployment for Marius Agua (\$11,787.45-5,310)	\$6,477.45
CASI report of costs associated with NRRWC	\$4,952.00
Single Audit due to over \$500,000 in Fed Funds	\$5,250.00
TOTAL BV COSTS-NOT REIMBURSED	\$16,679.45

Coalition Project Spotlight – Keri Navratil, Chair

- Buena Vista county and city of Storm Lake are working through a shared grant. City has installed 8 practices with pervious pavers, retention ponds and other green infrastructure projects. Grant is \$6.5 million total and will be complete in September.
- Polk county and SWCD have been making news for its saturated buffer projects in Four Mile Creek. (Read more: <https://businessrecord.com/Content/Default/All-Latest-News/Article/Project-to-clean-up-central-lowa-watersheds-unveiled-at-northern-Polk-County-farm/-3/248/93703>)
 - o Contact Polk SWCD commissioner Jon Norwood for questions.
- City of Clive streambank erosion study is resulting in retention pond being built on city property. Also interested in having conversations with other participants of upstream entities to share cost.
- Greene county SWCD is installing a couple saturated buffers and starting oxbow work. They have more projects than funds, and seeking grant opportunities.
- Iowa Economic Development Authority is hosting an application workshop on Community Development Block Grants through the federal CARES Act on June 30th from 1-3 pm online. Details available on <https://www.iowaeda.com/events/cdbg-cv-workshop/>.
 - o The workshop will provide information on program requirements, application process and timelines.

Registration: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/21CDBG>
- From Jim Marwedel, State Hazard Mitigation Planner, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department:
 - o Communities in the WMA are invited to take advantage of an opportunity to get some help with understanding their flood issues.
 - o As you may know, Iowa HSEMD is a member of the Iowa Flood Risk Management Team, which is a group of representatives of various state and federal agencies. This Team is often called the Iowa Silver Jackets. One of their recent initiatives is to provide technical resources from one or more of the member agencies to help communities figure out their flood issues and what options there may be to address such issues.
 - o This team has helped communities in the past, but we are just starting to formalize the process for communities to ask for that help. We have developed a questionnaire for a candidate community to fill out if they would like some assistance. (The questionnaire is at <https://arcg.is/0zmq8v> if you want to check it out, though note that it will be going through some changes.)
- Greene county is involved with the Beaver Creek WMA (Chuck Wenthold is current chair). Couple weeks ago, the EPA press conference awarded out funds to Iowa DNR to the Beaver Creek WMA. IDALS also received \$1M with a possibility that project could be in the Raccoon.
- Iowa DNR is working to correct 10 wetland structures over the next 3 years. Sites may or may not be established. Maybe IDALS and Blackhawk Lake could provide an update at next meeting. Kyle will reach out to Ethan and ask that he provides an update at October meeting.

FutuReal Fuels and Renewable Natural Gas – Jim Felton

- ___ Jim shared opportunities for manure digesters to create renewable natural gas and provided a brief overview of his business. Knowing the livestock industry landscape in the watershed, Jim sees this as an opportunity for public-private partnerships.
 - o ___ Any member entities interested in working with Jim and FutuReal Fuels can reach out to him directly or through member Jim Wissler, Sac county.

Iowa Soybean Assn. RCPP Project update – Theo Gunther, ISA

- The grant focuses on the NRR and with partner contributions offers \$16 million over 5 years.
- ___ The grant will build upon existing IDALS-WQI project in Headwaters of NRR and Elk Run/Farm to River, and upon ag retail partnerships with Conservation Agronomists like Michael Fritch with Heartland Co-op.
- ___ Original project goals:
 - o ___ 50,000 acres of cover crops
 - o ___ 19,200 acres of reduced tillage
 - o ___ 22 bioreactors
 - o ___ 20 oxbow wetland restorations
 - o ___ 25 saturated buffers
 - o ___ 5 nutrient removal wetlands
 - o ___ Total financial assistance available is ~\$7 million for these items.
- ___ Project timeline:
 - o ___ Application submitted December 2019
 - o ___ Selected in April 2020
 - o ___ Awaiting final agreement from NRCS (experiencing significant delays)
 - o ___ First anticipated batching date for applications in October 2021
 - o ___ Oxbow wetland planning to begin by partners in 2021

Discussion items

- ___ Ted and Keri talked about potential of finding a new member entity to act as a fiscal sponsor
- ___ Members discussed and review of sub-committees assigned from previous meetings. None of these groups have met recently, but with new leadership in place the time has come to revive discussions.

It was suggested and a general consensus was that the new executive committee should streamline the purpose and update the volunteer membership of these committees.

- o ___ *Member Outreach Committee Members* (from April 2021):
 - Sean McMahon, Iowa Ag Water Alliance (IAWA)
 - Alan Wedemeyer, Calhoun SWCD
 - Mark Hanson, Dallas county
 - Hillary Reed, city of Laurens
 - Susan Judkins, city of Clive
 - ___ Dean Schettler, Carroll county
- o ___ *New Funding Committee Members* (from October 2020 meeting):
 - Sean McMahon, Iowa Ag Water Alliance
 - Kyle Ament, Iowa DNR
 - Kevin Griggs, Boone county
 - Mark Hanson, Dallas county

- Jim Marwedel, Iowa HSEM
 - Katie Rock, Polk SWCD
 - Cara Elbert, NWIPDC
 - Michael Fritch, Heartland Co-op
 - Clarence Siepker, Pocahontas county
- o Planning Committee (from Aug. 2018, formed to review RFP and RFQ):
- Keri Navratil, city of Storm Lake
 - Jim Frederick, Sac SWCD
 - Alex Leu, city of Fonda
 - Mike Beeler, Dallas SWCD
 - Mark Hanson, Dallas county
 - Katie Rock, Polk SWCD
 - Jack Butler, city of Perry
 - Clarence Siepker, Pocahontas county
 - Dale Arends, Buena Vista county
- o Also of note: The board approved in April 2019 that a joint committee of executive and planning committee could approve decisions with 75% support until at least the Q3 2019 meeting (motioned by Mark Hanson, Dallas county; seconded by Mike Beeler, Dallas SWCD. Approved by unanimous voice vote).
- This was approved so decisions could be made in between quarterly meetings to not impede progress on projects under deadline.

Public Comment

- Kate Giannini and Valerie Decker provided updates from the Iowa Watershed Approach. Valerie will be sending a survey to the NRRWMC members, support and guests asking reflection questions on how the WMA has progressed over the last five years.

The meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.

Next meeting will be Friday, October 8th, 2021 at 10 am.

Members present:

Name	Location	Entity
Bob Ockerman	Adel	City
Susan Judkins	Clive	City
Jonathan Gano	Des Moines	City
Brooke Peterson	Glidden	City
Jake Anderson	Grimes	City
Hilary Reed	Laurens	City
Kris Kavanaugh	Lohrville	City
Keri Navratil	Storm Lake	City
Tom Hadden	West D M	City
Paul Merten	Buena Vista	County
Dean Schettler	Carroll	County
Mark Hanson	Dallas	County
Chuck Wenthold	Greene	County

Don Etler	Palo Alto	County
Clarence Siepker	Pocahontas	County
Bob Rice	Polk	County
Mark Campbell	Webster	County
Brian Waldstein	Buena Vista	SWCD
Eric Wessels	Dallas	SWCD
Fred Long	Greene	SWCD
Jim Gillespie	Madison	SWCD
Katie Rock	Polk	SWCD
Dan Hansen	Webster	SWCD