



# English River Watershed Management Authority Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2014  
6:30 PM

Williamsburg Public Library, Meeting Room A

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Board Members in attendance: Ryan Schlabaugh (Chair – City of Kalona), Jack Seward, Jr. (Vice Chair – County of Washington), Kelley Putman (Treasurer – Johnson SWCD-via phone), Kate Giannini (Board 3 – Washington SWCD)

Member Representatives in attendance: Mick Berg – County of Keokuk, Mike Phillips – Poweshiek SWCD, Steve Johnston – Iowa SWCD, Christine Kirkwood – City of Riverside)

Others in attendance: Jody Bailey (Secretary/Watershed Coordinator), Steve Berger, Dave Jackson

Absent: Jan Anderson, City of Grinnell

## **1. Call to Order**

Schlabaugh called the meeting to order at 6:41 PM.

## **2. Introductions**

## **3. Approval of minutes (Discussion/Action)**

### **a. November 21, 2013**

*M/S to approve meeting minutes by Seward/Giannini. All ayes. Motion passed.*

## **4. Schedule of 2014 ERWMA Meetings**

Bailey updated the Board that quarterly ERWMA Board meeting dates have been set for May 15 and August 21, 2014 at 6:30 PM. These meetings are regular Board meetings where ERWMA elected officers are expected to attend. The 4<sup>th</sup> ERWMA quarterly meeting of 2014 will be November 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM. This is the ERWMA's annual meeting where all Member Representatives should attend. Meetings will rotate between Public Library locations in Williamsburg, Montezuma and Sigourney, as well as the Wellman Parkside Activity Center.

## **5. Membership Updates (Discussion)**

Bailey asked the Board to welcome the ERWMA's newest Member Organization, the Poweshiek Soil & Water Conservation District. Mike Phillips, their Member Representative, was in attendance.

## **6. New Board Members**

Bailey introduced Steve Berger and asked the Board to formally consider a recommendation for his appointment to an Ex-Officio position on the ERWMA Board of Directors. Berger is a landowner in the English River valley, a Farm Bureau Board member, and a cover crops spokesperson. Bailey informed the Board that state producer groups were asked to recommend members who might be willing to serve on the Board as advisors and advocates for these important stakeholder groups. The ERWMA Board is looking to fill a second Ex-Officio seat on the Board and Bailey asked all in attendance to contact her with any suggestions.

*M/S by Putman/Seward to approve Steve Berger for one of two Ex-Officio seats on the ERWMA Board of Directors. All ayes. Motion passed.*

## **7. Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Update, Q&A with Watershed Coordinator (Discussion)**

- a. Office Space
- b. Promotional Materials
- c. Intern
- d. Project Partners
- e. Milestones
- f. Educational events

Bailey updated the Board on the Comprehensive Watershed Planning process and logistics. ERWMA efforts are being operated out of donated office space from the City of Kalona. Grants from the Riverside Casino and Washington County Riverboat Foundation were utilized for used office furniture, new office supplies, equipment (projector, printers, and phones) and promotional materials (brochures, trade show display items, business cards, informational packets, etc.) Funds are also being used to support a graduate student intern, Vanessa Fixmer-Oraiz, from the University of Iowa School of Urban and Regional Planning, who is serving as the Watershed Planning Intern.

Bailey informed the Board about stewardship and educational events being planned for spring and summer. Vanessa is coordinating a Soil Health event the Women, Food and Agriculture Network to be held in May, and a river clean-up event is being planned for summer. She also shared event flyers for the upcoming educational events: ER Watershed Planning Kickoff/Open House event (Williamsburg Public Library, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 PM); Cover Crop Field Day (Malcom Community Center, April 3, 10:00 AM).

## **8. Advisory Committee Updates with Watershed Coordinator (Discussion)**

- a) Technical Advisory Committee
- b) Community Advisory Committee

Bailey updated the Board on other milestones achieved in the planning process, such as formation of the Technical and Community Advisory Teams. A discussion took place regarding recruitment of additional residents to serve on the Community Advisory Team. Bailey emphasized that Iowa and Keokuk Counties were under-represented on the current team. Bailey encouraged all in attendance to contact her with suggestions.

**9. Rescheduled Open House event (Discussion)**

- a. Thursday, March 27, 2014 at the Williamsburg Public Library

A discussion took place about the upcoming Kickoff event and the agenda for the evening. Project partners will provide short presentations about their contributions to the watershed planning project, followed by a Q&A and social hour with those in attendance.

**10. Financial Report**

Schlabaugh provided the Board with information about watershed planning grant funds expended to date (\$6,000) and with Putman, will provide the Board with updates at each meeting.

**11. Other/Announcements**

There were no additional announcements.

**12. Adjournment**

*M/S by Schlabaugh/Seward to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. All ayes. Motion passed.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Minutes taken by J. Bailey