



ENGLISH RIVER
WATERSHED

English River Watershed Management Authority Meeting Minutes

December 30, 2020
10:00 AM
Virtual

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Ryan Schlabaugh.

The following individuals were in attendance: Board Members: Ryan Schlabaugh, Chair (City of Kalona); Abe Miller, Vice Chair (Alternate) – Washington County; Kasey Hutchinson, At Large – Johnson County; Mike Phillips, At Large – Poweshiek SWCD; Mark Kennett, At Large – Poweshiek SWCD; Ted Oswald – Iowa County SWCD; Mick Berg, At Large (Keokuk County)

Staff: Jody Bailey, ERWMA Project Coordinator

Project Partners: Jim Marwedel, State Hazard Mitigation Planner

2. Additions to/Approval of Agenda (Action)

There were no additions to the agenda.

M/S by Berg/Kennett to approve the agenda. Motion passed.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Discussion/Action)

- February 20, 2020

M/S by Miller/Kennett to approve the February 2020 meeting minutes. Motion passed.

4. Organizational

2020 Board Elections

Expiring 2-year terms

Ryan	Schlabaugh	Chair	City of Kalona	Expires November 2020
Kasey	Hutchinson	At Large	Johnson County	Expires November 2020
Mick	Berg	At Large	Keokuk County	Expires November 2020
Mark	Kennett	At Large	Poweshiek SWCD	Expires November 2020

All four officers were present and agreed to serve new 2-year terms in their current roles. M/S by Oswald/Miller to re-elect the above officers for new two-year terms in their current roles. Motion passed.

5. IWA Project Prioritization and Budget Limitations

Bailey updated the board on the anticipated 2021 budget, the final year of the IWA project. 15 projects have been engineered and are considered essentially “bid ready” with an estimated value of \$1.8 million. Due to a budget shortfall, some bid ready projects from Iowa County would have to be tabled.

The engineering team at French Reneker Associates is working with Iowa County and the Iowa Flood Center on a flood hazard modeling project, looking at impacted infrastructure (F-67 bridge) downstream from the IWA-eligible project area. Because this groundwork has been laid, the English River WMA would have a strong application to apply for either/or BRIC (Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities) and HMGP (Hazard Mitigation Grant Program) grant funding from FEMA. Bailey has already been working with Jim Marwedel, HSEMD Iowa State Hazard Mitigation Planner on a proposal. The Iowa County Board of Supervisors recently approved (12/23/2020) working with the ERWMA on a proposal for FEMA funds, on behalf of the County. If successful, this will prevent projects from primarily Iowa County producers and County Conservation from being tabled.

Bailey proposed that previously prioritized projects be split out between remaining IWA funds and *anticipated* FEMA funds, and outlined how the projects would be divided between the two funding streams. This would over-ride previous decisions made by the technical team in how the remaining 15 projects were prioritized for IWA funds, but if the FEMA proposal is successful, no remaining bid-ready projects would have to be cut.

A lengthy discussion followed.

Motion made by Berg to split previously prioritized projects out between two possible funding streams, and to approve the ERWMA partnering with Iowa County on application for FEMA Disaster Mitigation funding. Second by Kennett.

Ayes: Berg, Kennett, Schlabaugh, Miller, Hutchinson

Nay: Oswald

Motion passed.

6. Announcements/Events

- 2021 ERW Board Meetings
February 18th – virtual – time TBD
May 20th – virtual – time TBD
August 19th – format and time TBD
November 18th – format and time TBD
- Future Board meetings will likely continue to be virtual through at least the first ½ of 2021. Board members expressed that daytime virtual meetings are preferable to evening ones, and the earlier in the AM, the better.
- Abe Miller announced that he is resigning from the Washington County Board of Supervisors effective January 2020, and leaving his role on the ERWMA board. The Board thanked Miller for his service to Washington County and the ERWMA.
- Mick Berg announced that his position on the Keokuk County Board of Supervisors is ending, however that the Keokuk County BOS has appointed him to continue to represent them on the ERWMA Board due to his interest in conservation farming topics.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 AM

Chairperson

Date

Notes taken by J. Bailey