



English River Watershed Management Authority Meeting Minutes

May 15, 2014
6:30 PM
Wellman City Hall

1. Call to Order

Schlabaugh called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

2. Introductions

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), Nick Pacha (Board 2, City of Wellman), Kate Giannini (Board 3 – Washington SWCD), Steve Berger (Ex-Officio)

Member Representatives in Attendance: Mick Berg (County of Keokuk), Mike Phillips (Poweshiek SWCD), Gary Bates (Keokuk SWCD)

Others in attendance: Adam Kiel (Iowa Soybean Association), Jody Bailey (Secretary/Watershed Coordinator), Dave Jackson, Mike Pearson, Rita & Bill MacDonald, Representative Dave Maxwell, Margaret Ruddy

Absent Board Members: Jan Anderson (Board 1, City of Grinnell)

3. Approval of minutes (Discussion/Action)

- a. March 20, 2014

*M/S to approve the March 20th meeting minutes by Seward/ Giannini. All ayes.
Motion passed.*

4. Addition of 7th voting Board Member due to change in Secretary (Discussion / Action)

Bailey explained to the Board that a 7th voting member of the Board was needed due to her assuming the role of Secretary as a non-voting Officer. The change occurred when former Secretary Rusty Rogerson (City of Riverside) conceded the responsibility of Secretary. Rogerson is still a Member Representative on behalf of

the City of Riverside. A discussion took place after which Seward recommended that the issue be tabled until the next Board meeting, where an election will occur to fill this position. Bailey will reach out via email to all of the ERWMA's Member Representatives and inform them of the opportunity and election to be held at the next quarterly Board meeting, which will be in August. All Board members approved of this plan.

5. State Revolving Funds and Stormwater Management Opportunities (Discussion)

Schlabaugh led a discussion about the State Revolving Fund and opportunities for municipalities that borrow funds for utility improvements to receive "rebates" on the loans that can be used for stormwater management projects. Schlabaugh, Bailey and staff from Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship are meeting in late May to explore an application for the City of Kalona. Currently, two watershed communities have SRF rebate funds that could be used for these types of projects, the Cities of Kalona and Montezuma.

6. Watershed Planning Update, Q&A (Discussion)

Adam Kiel from the Iowa Soybean Association updated the Board on data gathered from a physical environment inventory he conducted. Data included information about land use patterns, absentee landownership, initial water quality snapshots, and historical water quality trends of the English River valley. A discussion took place with those present at the meeting about this data.

Bailey updated the Board on watershed outreach and education events occurring in the last few months, including co-sponsorship of a cover crop field day in Malcom, staffing a booth at the Iowa Water Conference, Women Caring for the Land Soil Health Event, and several presentations for community groups.

7. Financial Report

As of May 15, 2014, the ERWMA has spent \$29,680.00 of the Comprehensive Watershed Planning Grant funds, and received reimbursements for \$25,180.00. Expenses incurred were for work performed by the Watershed Coordinator (\$16,500.00) and the Iowa Soybean Association (\$13,180.00). The grant balance is \$120,315.00 of the total grant amount of \$150,000.00

Supplemental funds to support watershed efforts since March of 2013 have come from a grant provided by the Washington County Riverboat Foundation (Outreach and education materials, office equipment - \$20,000.00), private funding (start-up and administrative expenses, intern compensation - \$33,700.00). Future contributions have been committed by the County of Washington and City of Riverside.

8. Announcements

Giannini and Putman informed the group about the Conservation Districts of Iowa annual Conference in September of 2014 and suggested the watershed look into sponsoring a booth at the event. Bailey said she would follow up.

9. Adjournment

M/S by Pacha/Seward to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion passed.

Chairperson

Date

Minutes taken by J. Bailey