
APPENDIX B: STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT MATERIALS

Organized by meeting or event

STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS

- June 4, 2020: WMA Board / Stakeholder Meeting
 - Meeting notes
 - Stakeholder discussion notes
 - Draft watershed vision statement
 - Polling results
- August 20, 2020: WMA Board / Stakeholder Meeting
 - Meeting notes, including breakout room discussion
- November 19, 2020: WMA Board / Stakeholder Meeting
 - Meeting notes, including Water Trail Expansion Study Area Map
- February 18, 2021: WMA Board / Stakeholder Meeting
 - Meeting notes
- May 20, 2021: WMA Board / Stakeholder Meeting
 - Meeting notes
- August 19, 2021: WMA Board / Stakeholder Meeting
 - Meeting notes
- December 16, 2021: WMA Board / Stakeholder Meeting
 - Meeting notes

WATER TRAIL MEETINGS

- February 9, 2021 – Land Managers/public Agencies
 - Meeting notes
- February 9, 2021 – Landowners
 - Meeting notes
 - Invitational postcard
- February 10, 2021 – River Users/Interested Public
 - Meeting notes
 - Water Trail Survey results summary

PUBLIC MEETINGS

- February 2, 2022: Public Open House Meeting
 - Meeting sign-in sheet
 - Boone River Watershed Plan fact sheet
 - Note: No written comments received

PRESS RELEASES, MAILINGS, OR OTHER MEDIA MATERIALS

- The Belmond Independent press release for Public Water Trail Meeting (Jan 29, 2021)
- Flyer/graphic used for open house notification on Facebook
- TNC Newsletter article with open house notification (January 2022)
- Press release clipping for open house notification (Wright County Monitor - January 20, 2022)
- Screenshot for open house notification (KLOW radio station website – February 2, 2022)
- News Article summarizing open house (Wright County Monitor, February 10, 2022)

Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)

Board Meeting & Stakeholder Meeting

June 4, 2020; 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Held Virtually via Zoom)

Meeting Notes

Attendance

1. Adam Asche, Humboldt NRCS
2. Adam Rupe, JEO
3. Alyssa Tenorio, JEO
4. Ben Loots, Humboldt County Engineer
5. David Lee, Humboldt County Supervisor
6. Dean Kluss, Wright County Supervisor
7. Derrick Weissenfluh, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife
8. Eric Rector, Wright County Conservation Board
9. Jarika Eisentrager, Wright Count Emergency Management
10. Jeff Sheridan, Webster City
11. Jim Sayers, Humboldt SWCD
12. John Wenck, Iowa DNR
13. Karen Wilke, The Nature Conservancy
14. Kyle Ament, Iowa DNR
15. Laura Sarcone, Des Moines Water Works
16. Nancy Bohl Bormann, Kossuth SWCD
17. Roger Tjarks, Kossuth County Supervisor
18. Terry Kaduce, Hancock County SWCD
19. Warren Jennings, Palo Alto County Watershed Coordinator

Stakeholder Discussion and Introductions

- This input will be utilized to develop draft goals and objectives for the watershed plan
- See attached notes

Ideas on Stakeholders / Public Outreach Opportunities

- These will be added into the Public Involvement Plan for review
- Recommendations
 - Private sector?
 - CO-OPs
 - Gold Eagle
 - New Cooperative - head office location in Fort Dodge
 - Recreation clubs?
 - Iowa River Riders (Dean has contact)
 - No known outfitters

- Kossuth County Conservation rents kayaks, but just on Smith Lake: <http://watersedgenc.com/aboutus/rentals.html>
 - Hamilton County Conservation rents kayaks
 - Webster City rentals – Seven Oaks Recreation, Executive Inn
- Non-profits
 - Eric Rector – County Farm could be demo site
 - Boone River Clean-up Club (Karen has a contact)
 - Isaac Walton League
 - Ducks Unlimited, National Hunting Federation (Pheasant Forever, Whitetails)
 - Iowa Pork Producers
 - Iowa Soybean Association
- Farm Borough
 - County groups have more stake in watershed than state level group
- Landowners
 - None identified
- Major livestock producers in the area
 - Hawkeye
 - Prestige

Review Draft Vision Statement

- JEO presented a Draft Vision Statement (see attached at the end of this document)
- JEO is requesting suggestions, comments, changes, etc. on the draft
 - Please send those to Adam (arupe@jeo.com; 402.322.0377)
- Comments received during the meeting
 - Change to “education efforts” (remove “management”)
 - From Nancy: Not sure if we want to mention soil health in it? A lot of the items are intertwined.
 - From Karen: I like the word "regenerative" farms - to encompass flood and soil health
- Will send out for review - due back by 6/12/2020

Polling Data

- Meeting attendings took a live poll regarding conservation practices and watershed awareness
- A copy of the results is attached to these notes

Next Meeting

- Thursday, August 20 at 2 PM, Clarion Public Library
- Enclosed Shelter House as alternative (Eric Rector)

Notes from Stakeholder Discussion and Introductions

Name	Question 1: What is your biggest goal or primary concern/issue to address for the watershed?	Question 2: What is the largest obstacle that you see to achieving that goal, or addressing that issue?
Kyle Ament Iowa DNR	Primary concern is biological community, need to protect what we have and hopefully improve	Engagement of partners, have something to take back and have something to do their part in the watershed
Jeff Sheridan Webster City	River has been an important part of community, taken for granted and not appreciated; make the river a bigger part of our future via tourism and recreation, remain viable, clean, and healthy	n/a
Dean Kluss Wright County Supervisor	Recreation, farmer; want clean water for future generations. Stigma with WMA and perceived regulations	Stigma that goes along with management authority, regulation
Terry Kaduce Hancock County SWCD	Clean water starts in the middle of the field	Work together as diverse group, educating public on benefits
Karen Wilke The Nature Conservancy	Improving water quality, helping create resilient farms, protecting wildlife habitats	Overcoming barriers with farmers and landowners, figuring out what motivates people
David Lee Humboldt County Supervisor	Happy to be here and learn what is going on	n/a
Roger Tjarks Kossuth County Supervisor	Taking active role in water conservation, farmers more receptive now than they have ever been, farmers can exist with wildlife	Education
John Wenck Iowa DNR	Extending water trail upstream, recreation means more people engaged in the river, showcasing natural areas of the community, make rivers more accessible	Concerns with buy-in from land managers, public

Name	Question 1: What is your biggest goal or primary concern/issue to address for the watershed?	Question 2: What is the largest obstacle that you see to achieving that goal, or addressing that issue?
Eric Rector Wright County Conservation Board	More practices installed, working NRCS and landowners to get practices installed into public properties	Historical farming mentality - generational ways of doing things
Jim Sayers Humboldt SWCD	Opportunity for education - BMPs, share with others	Conservation isn't top of mind this season
Warren Jennings Palo Alto County Watershed Coordinator	Happy to be here and learn what is going on	n/a
Ben Loots Humboldt County Engineer	Happy to be here and learn what is going on	n/a
Laura Sarcone Des Moines Water Works	Downstream water utility; interested and supportive of WMAs, provided technical support and in-house lab assistance, sponsorship dollars for plans	Not just nitrate we're worried about in water quality
Darrick Weissenfluh USFWS, Partners for Fish and Wildlife	Communication and outreach is the opportunity	Communication and outreach is also the challenge
Nancy Bohl Bormann Kossuth SWCD	Have good conservation practices, but would like more, and would like to spread more BMPs	n/a
Adam Asche Humboldt County NRCS	Improving soil health and water quality	Landowner buy-in and education outreach
Jim Sayers Humboldt SWCD	To learn about and then communicate best practices. Goal to move beyond the scientific report to practical ways to engage community members in meaningful action.	n/a

Boone River WMA

DRAFT

Watershed Vision Statement

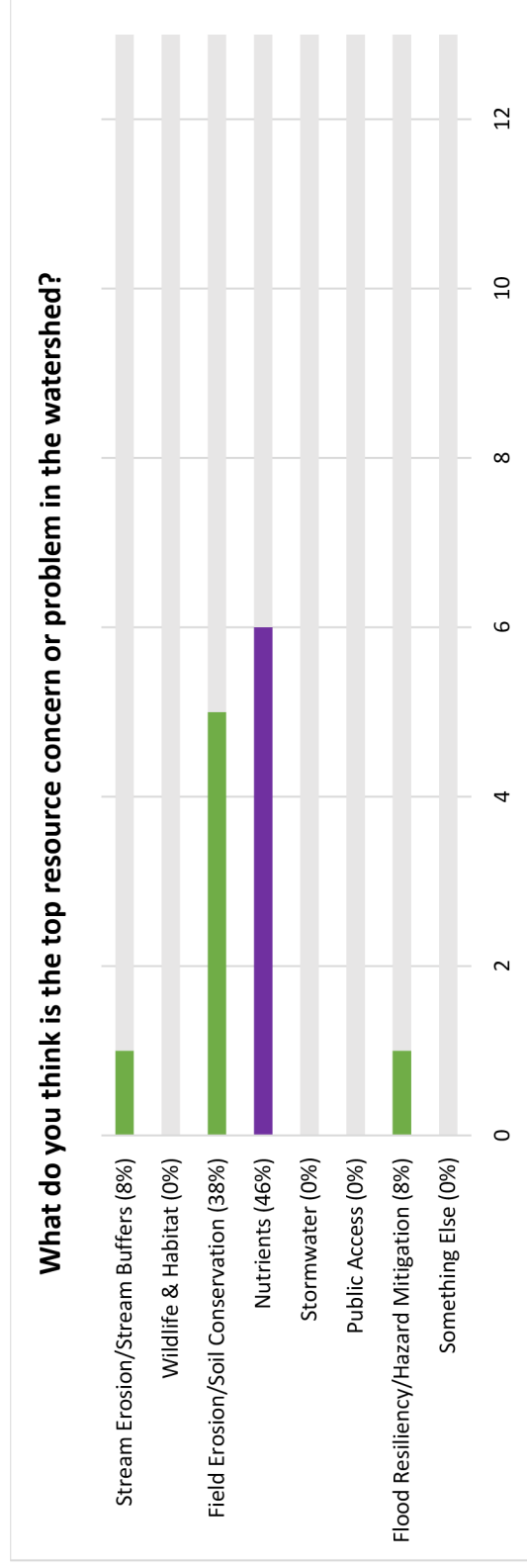
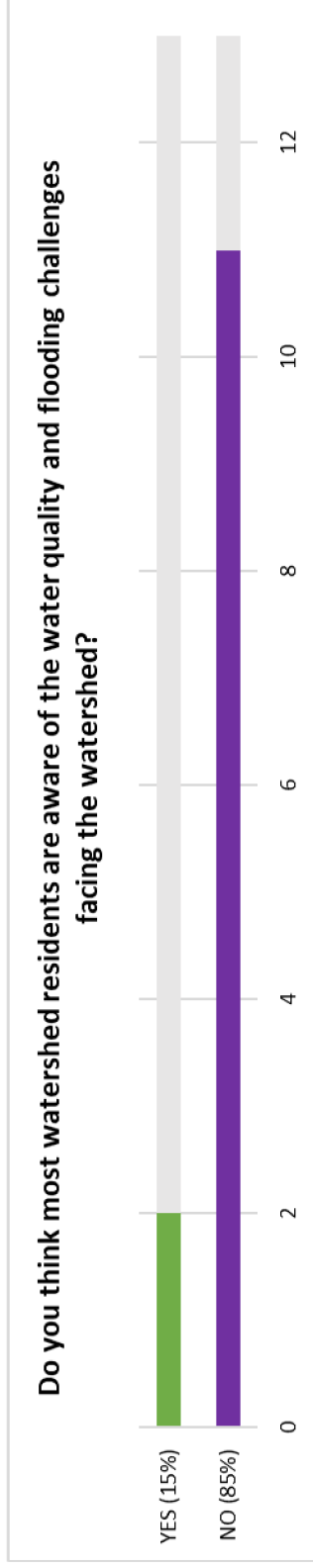
What revisions or suggestions do you have?

The Boone River WMA will lead watershed management efforts through local, state, federal, and private partnerships in order to improve water quality, mitigate flood risks to life and property, and increase flood resiliency of communities for current and future generations using practices which are voluntary, compatible with agriculture, enhance recreation, economically viable, and environmentally sound.

Polling Results

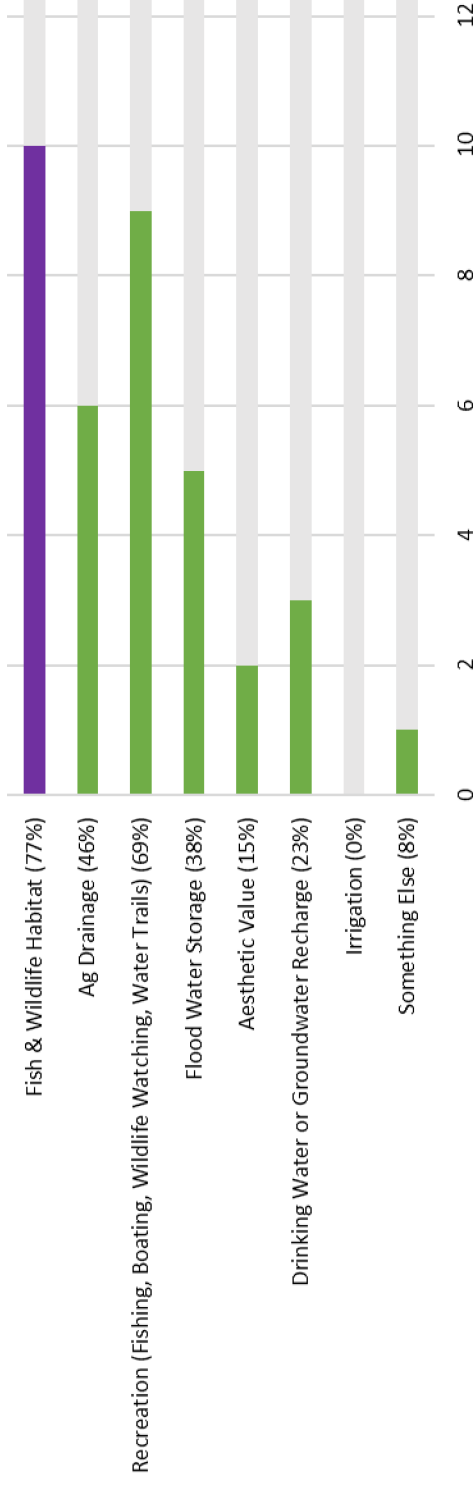
Conservation Practices and Watershed Awareness

Taken during Boone River WMA Meeting – 6/4/2020



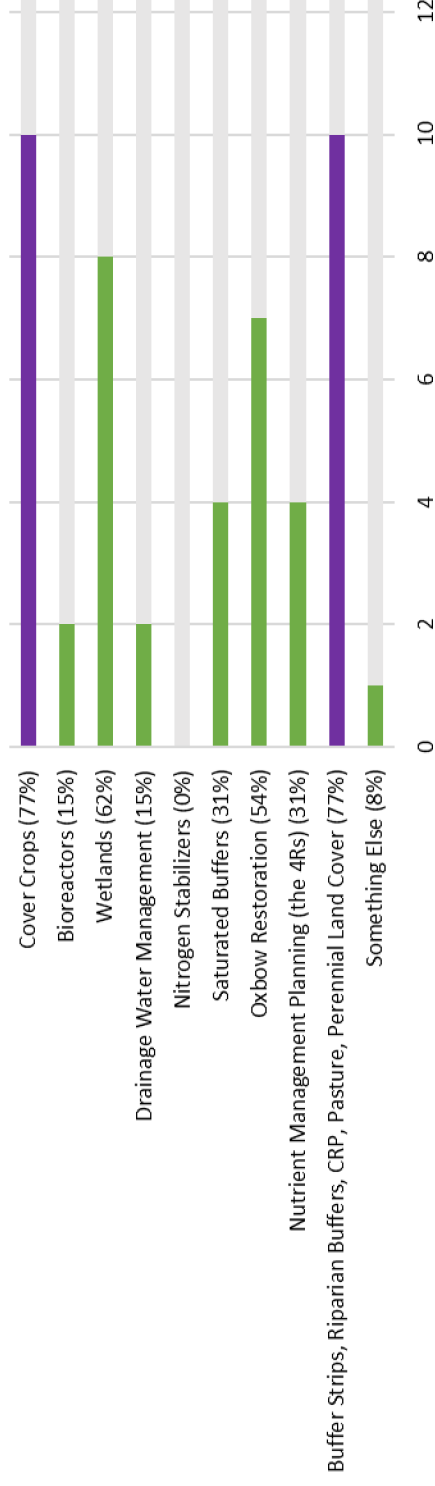
What are the top 3 "services" or "benefits" that streams in the watershed provide?

(Multiple Choice)



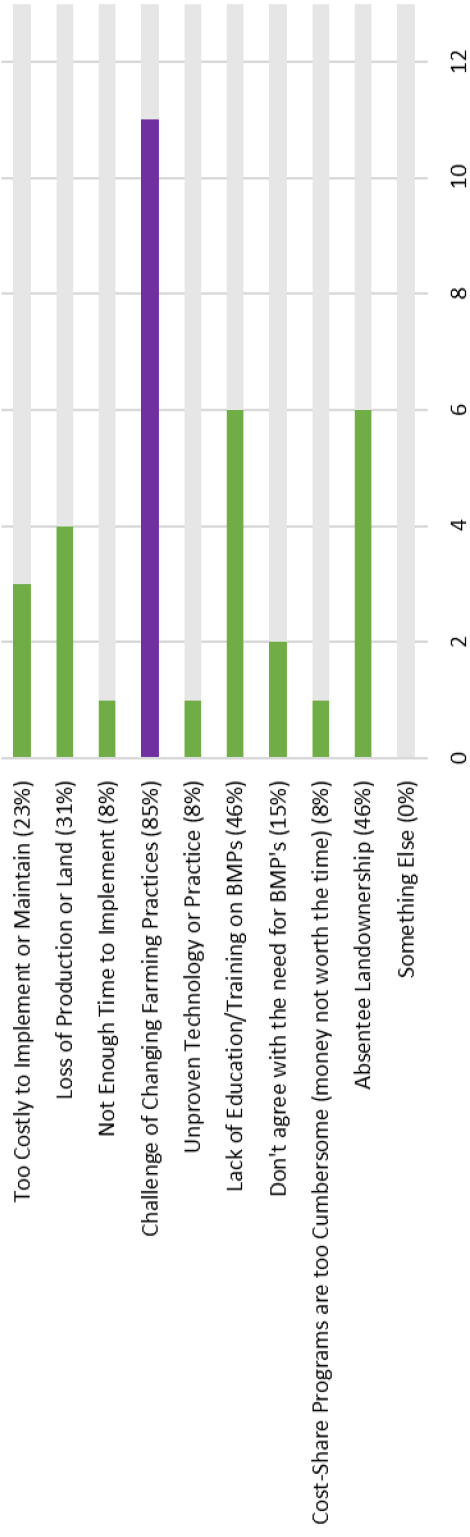
What Best Management Practices (BMPs) should be prioritized for implementation in the watershed (i.e. what does the watershed need more of?)

Select all that apply. (Multiple Choice)



What do you feel are the primary barriers to additional BMP implementation?

Select up to three (3) options. (Multiple Choice)



Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)
Board Meeting & Stakeholder Meeting
August 20, 2020; 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Held Virtually via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 2:00 by Dena Kluss, Chairperson

2. Board Member Introduction

- a. Introduction by new attendees
- b. Roll call was taken by Dean, 7 of 11 members were present
- c. A quorum was present
- d. See attached attendance list

3. Minutes from June 4, 2020

- a. Motion to approve by Roger Tjarks
- b. Motion seconded by Terry Kaduce
- c. Minutes from 06/04 approved unanimously

4. Contract Extension

- a. Discussion led by Kyle Ament
- b. Amendment #1 to Watershed contract to extend 6 months
 - i. This amendment concerns Wright County and the DNR
 - ii. Motion to extend by Luke Snyder
 - iii. Motion seconded by Jim Sayer
 - iv. Unanimous vote, motion carried
- c. Notice: Subaward Certification for Federal Funding, Accountability, and Transparency Act
 - i. Dean Kluss will be signing this act
 - ii. Payments can then be made to Wright County as they are needed/requested

5. Renaming of WMA

- a. Discussion led by Kyle Ament
- b. There have been instances across Iowa with other WMAs, where public perception has led to a stigma of WMA, due to a misunderstanding that the term “Authority” within the WMA name implies a WMA as regulatory authority, when in reality it does not.
- a. Some organizations are now just called “Coalition” and dropped “Authority”
- b. Idea to drop A and just have WM? Or change WMA to “Coalition”
 - i. Concern of Karen Wilke – Does this disqualify us from WMA funding?
 - ii. Kyle Ament – As long as we still cite the code of Iowa, it is just a name change that will not affect our funding. Each government (city, county, SWCD) will have to resign the 28E agreement
 - iii. Jean Eells – A name change won’t really do anything. It is a 28E agreement that is very common in governments. Authority vs. coalition will not really change the way the WMA is viewed by the public. It might alleviate tiresome explaining to the general public, and only then will it maybe be worth it.
 - iv. Karen Wilke – A name change will promote trust and respect in the watershed and, if it is a simple fix, then the name should be changed.
 - v. Nate Huntley – Indifferent to name change

vi. Dean Kluss – Let us leave the name as it is for now.

c. No action taken

6. Hydrologic Model Proposal

a. Discussion led by Karen Wilke

a. At the January WMA meeting – Larry Weber’s (Iowa Flood Center) presentation proposed a model for predicting the next 30 years of climate changes, extreme weather, and flooding in the Des Moines River Watershed. The model had benefits including accounting for tile drainage. It would help target implementation of conservation practices

b. The model could be formatted to target Boone River Watershed

i. \$65,000 for a year-long study (flexible price depending on detail)

ii. Des Moines Waterworks (representative: Laura Sarcone) was not very interested. They are interested in water quality, not water quantity.

iii. We need funding – maybe find a grant opportunity?

c. Dean Kluss – Is there another organization that would have funds to help?

d. Karen Wilke – I do not know of other partners but let me know if anyone does.

e. Kyle Ament – He thought at one point the price was less than \$10,000.

f. Karen Wilke – There might be flexibility in pricing depending on the detail of the model we are wanting. This price is just for the Boone River Watershed, as the larger Des Moines River Watershed model has already been completed, but not at a very usable scale for the Boone River.

g. Dean Kluss – If any funding is available or an organization who can fund this presents itself, then please reach out to Karen, Dean, or Kyle. If Larry Webber comes up with extra funds, then maybe he could also help.

h. No action taken

7. Watershed Planning Process (JEO)

a. Adam Rupe gave updates on the planning process. All eight current condition reports have been completed and submitted to the technical advisory team for review. JEO will be incorporating that feedback and finalizing the reports, which can be posted online.

b. An updated vision statement, based on input at the last meeting was presented

i. Jena Eells - Direct references to the social side of the watershed project were pulled out of the vision statement. We are stalled-out by that social side over and over. I hope that we don’t lose an opportunity for educational outreach because the social side terminology is being left out

ii. Adam Rupe – This is good to take note of. We could address the social side in Goals or Action Items. My sense was that people were hesitant for the WMA to be the lead organization managing the project.

iii. Terry Kaduce – Check grammar of the last sentence. Check the tense of the writing, as it might need to be in future tense.

iv. Dean Kluss – Does this need to be finalized today?

v. Adam Rupe – No, we do not need to adopt it today. We just want to make sure that we are on the right track.

vi. This vision statement will be edited with this feedback, with the intention of adopting it at a future meeting.

- c. Adam presented on the process the planning team is following to develop goals and objectives for the plan. Following the presentation, the meeting was split into four smaller discussion groups. Each group considered a specific question related to plan goals and implementation. After 15 minutes of small group discussion, the full meeting group reassembled, and each group presented a summary of their discussion. Additional notes are attached to these meeting minutes.
- d. Adam presented on the next steps in the planning process
 - i. Breakout discussion ideas from today will be incorporated into the draft goal document, which will be emailed out for review, and discussed at the next meeting

8. Partner Updates

- a. None

9. Questions/Comments

- a. None

10. Other Items

- a. Voting on moving to pay JEO the amount of \$19,110 for Task #1 for the Current Conditions Reports by requesting \$20,000 through the DNR Grant (amount due July 31, 2020)
 - i. Motion by Terry Kaduce to request and then pay the money
 - ii. Motion seconded by TC Loving
 - iii. Unanimous vote, motion carried

11. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, November 19 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting

12. Public Comments

- a. Kyle presented an idea for a casual field day for talking about and catching fish species in the Boone River. This could be for late September and a Biologist from the Iowa DNR would run this outing.
 - i. This will help target community members and pique their interest in the Boone River
 - ii. TC Loving – This field day will bring positive attention to the Boone River.
 - iii. Mike Heller – The low water levels indicate dense fish areas in the river.
 - iv. Jean Eels – We could look at muscues since the water levels are so low as an alternative to the fish, who are currently under a lot of strain with low water levels.
- b. Wright County has Funds available (about \$400,000) for water quality projects
 - i. This money has to do with Prestage Farms coming to the area.
 - ii. Can only be used in a small part of the watershed
 - iii. Dean Kluss will be in touch with Karen Wilke to utilize those funds so they aren't wasted
- c. W.H.O. The Big Show will be in the watershed promoting water quality practices
 - i. Wednesday, August 26th from 11am-1pm
 - ii. Karen will send an email reminder

13. Adjourn at 3:58 p.m.

WMA Membership Roll Call

Member	Present / Represented by
Counties	
Hancock	None Present
Humboldt	David Lee
Kossuth	Galen Casey
Wright	Dean Kluss
Cities	
Goldfield	None Present
Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)	
Hamilton	Jean Eells
Hancock	Terry Kaduce
Humboldt	Jim Sayers
Kossuth	None Present
Webster	None Present
Wright	Nate Huntly

Full Attendance List

1. Adam Rupe, JEO
2. Andrea Wagner, ISU Masters Student
3. Alyssa Tenorio, JEO
4. Bob Waters, Iowa Dept. of Ag & Land Stewardship
5. Brian Tumey, Kossuth NRCS
6. David Lee, Humboldt Supervisor
7. Dean Kluss, Wright Supervisor
8. Derrick Weissenfluh, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife
9. Doug Miller, Kossuth Engineer
10. Galen Casey, Kossuth County
11. Jamie Benning, ISU Extension
12. Jean Eells, Hamilton SWCD
13. Jeff Sheridan, Webster City Manager
14. Jim Sayers, Humboldt SWCD
15. John Wenck, Iowa DNR
16. Karen Wilke, The Nature Conservancy
17. Kyle Ament, Iowa DNR
18. Luke Snyder, Kossuth County
19. Mike Brander, Hamilton Conservation Board
20. Mike Heller, JEO
21. Nate Huntly, Wright SWCD
22. Roger Tjarks, Kossuth Supervisor
23. TC Loving, Humboldt SWCD
24. Terry Kaduce, Hancock SWCD
25. Todd Lee, Humboldt Conservation Board

Watershed Planning Process (JEO)

Breakout Discussion

Breakout Discussion Notes can be found in attached Google Slides

- *Group 1: What projects should be done? Who should lead those?*
 - Represented by Kyle Ament
 - Bob Waters – added to discussion
 - This question can be interpreted differently depending on what you view as “projects”. You cannot fix anything without understanding and quantifying problems.
 - Adam Rupe – This discussion is being used to identify what the issue at hand really is. We do this by getting people to come-up with ideas for solutions and then going back and figuring out what the actual problems and issues are.
 - Jean Eels – We can see what opportunities are in this watershed through this discussion. It is a “linear” approach. It is okay for now, but we need to gather data to identify problems before going ahead with solutions.
 - Bob Waters – I want to get back to the basics and identify resource concerns because it is sometimes easier to get out of order to capitalize on opportunities.

- *Group 2: Should certain BMPs be prioritized? If so, how?*
 - Represented by TC Loving
 - Adam Rupe – Focusing by location is an approach to watershed projects, but there might not be that many opportunities in that location. It might depend on the location and what can get off the ground and be prioritized.
 - Kyle Ament – Lyons Creek was based on water quality data and not on the social side.
 - Dean Kluss – He emphasized the social aspect of projects.

- *Group 3: What resources or actions are needed? Who should lead those?*
 - Represented by Andrea Wagner
 - Doug Miller –Emphasized communication in the watershed between the different stakeholders who are involved.
 - John Wenck – Understanding the magnitude of your changes within a watershed and in a body of water is important. Suggested using the “restoration toolbox” for stream restoration projects. Saving money in the long run is worth it, even if up-front costs are very expensive. An example of this would be paving a boat launch instead of using gravel, which gets washed away.

- *Group 4: What barriers need to be overcome?*
 - Represented by Karen Wilke
 - Jean Eels – She shared information for a grant that might be able to assist in this project. She applied for this grant and is now waiting to see if she received it.

Breakout Group Questions

1. What projects should be done?
 - Who should lead those?
2. Should certain BMPs be prioritized?
 - If so, how?
3. What resources or actions are needed?
 - Who should lead those?
4. What barriers need to be overcome?



Group 1: What projects should be done? Who should lead those?

- Education at the local level; lead by ISU Extension, co-ops
- Improving rec opportunities on the river; lead by DNR, Natural Heritage Foundation, schools, etc.
- Oxbow restoration
- Topeka shiner
- Precision ag
- Edge of field practices

Other discussions:

- Monitoring, tying back to education piece
- Modeling
- Watershed assessment
- ID gaps in data and filling data, ID sources - pinpointing issues, back to basics
- Look at what partners are doing to see what opportunities are available right now

Group 2: Should certain BMPs be prioritized? If so, how?

*BMPs = best management practices

Likelihood of implementation

Effectiveness

If it addresses multiple goals/multiple benefits

Cost - possibly #1 question farmers will have

Outside funding available

Other discussions:

- By location
- Consider social aspect of project
- Metrics, how is it going to be measured?
- Sharing successes, failures with other groups

Group 3: What resources or actions are needed? Who should lead those?

- Sustained connectivity. Increased human connections
 - Personal connection within the watershed can be an advantage--knowledge of different toolboxes.
- Classes that cover hydrology--how working with rivers is different
- Engineering has become more challenging as the rain patterns have changed. How do we anticipate those changes?
- Initial costs of some projects are a barrier--funding is, of course, needed.
- More critical right now is having a person that can reach out to landowners. Someone who can interpret projects and explain the context of the watershed.
 - More critical than adding to the volume of information that is out there about BMPs

Restoration toolbox as resource

Better tools that might cost money upfront can save money in the long run

Group 4: What barriers need to be overcome?

- need / power of in-person events
- Lack of knowledge of watershed group and value and importance, and the impact every landowner can have (what difference can i make)
- Utilize monitoring data for outreach, need analysis and interpretation
- Assumption that this is an Ag issue only, need to educate communities too
- Amount of paperwork - need to streamline
- Not enough technical assistance
- Organizational confusion (who does what and how to find who)
- Farmer barriers to adoption (social norms, time, inputs, perceived risks)
- Showing the long term and financial benefits
- Instant gratification is not real with some conservation practices
- Change is hard
- Can't see water quality issues - can't see nitrates. How can we see success.

Other discussions

- Absentee landowners

Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)
Board Meeting & Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2020; 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Held Virtually via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 2:00 by Dean Kluss, Chairperson

2. Board Member Introduction

- a. Introduction by new attendees
- b. Roll call was taken by Dean, 6 of 10 members were present
- c. A quorum was present
- d. See attached attendance list

3. Minutes from August 20, 2020

- a. Motion to approve by Kossuth County
- b. Motion seconded by Hancock County
- c. Minutes from 08/20/2020 approved unanimously

4. Boone Water Quality Initiative Update

- a. Discussion led by Sean McCoy (IDALS)
- b. Updates on use of cover crops & no-till practices this year
 - i. About 9,000 acres of cover crop signed-up
 - 1. 7,200 acres were implemented, 3x last year's number
 - ii. Without USDA program: 1,000 acres of strip till & no till implemented
- c. Within Kossuth, Humboldt, & Wright Counties
 - i. Held "Conservation Coffees" to discuss cover crops
 - ii. Cover Crop Workshop (30-45 people) back in March
 - iii. About 40 fields in process of being surveyed for projects to be implemented
 - iv. Sites being looked-at/monitored for saturated buffers & bioreactor implementation
 - 1. Eric Rector identified sites
 - 2. Preliminary designs being created
 - 3. Need to visit with Dean Kluss about Wright County bioreactors
- d. COVID making it tough to meet in person with farmers and landowners
 - i. Current focus is "edge of field"
- e. QUESTIONS:
 - i. Question from Adam Rupe: What area(s) do the numbers you just discussed cover?
 - 1. Sean McCoy: They cover Eagle and Prairie Watersheds –they are small, simple watersheds in Humboldt, Kossuth, and Wright.
 - ii. Question from Dean Kluss: Is there any additional funding that has been freed-up in the Cares Program to pay for these practices?
 - 1. Sean McCoy: Currently, the bioreactors and the saturated buffers are 100% funded. For Buck Creek, WQI funding will be used to get to 100% funded. These practices all affect downstream areas, so it's important to

make sure there is available funding, and nothing is left “hanging”. Everything must be carried out for this project.

2. Karen Wilke, The Nature Conservancy: There is some potential other funding from an RCPP grant that was awarded to IDALS. The grant is for the entire Des Moines lobe & lowan Surface area, so some of it can be requested. Everyone should keep promoting project to the public to increase potential funding opportunities.
- iii. Question from Eric Rector: Does it matter who the landowner is? Does it have to be public entity?
 1. Sean McCoy: WQI funding can be used on county property. “Duel agreements” will still be entered with landowners to keep everything clear and making sure all parties involved agree to the practices being implemented. Funding can be used on adjacent property and then through private property.
- iv. Question from Dean Kluss: Is the White Fox included for these practices? It dumps into the Boone.
 1. Sean McCoy: Anything within Boone is within reach for these projects. I’m not focusing on it – I am mainly focused on Eagle & Prairie. It will have a steamrolling affect through the Boone area when these practices are implemented, and more and more of them will start popping up all over the Boone River Watershed.
- v. Question from Joni Erwin, Iowa Corn: Will you send info on how farmers can apply for that funding? I want to include information in our newsletter and water quality initiative.
 1. Sean McCoy: Yes, I will email information to you and Ben. The application for funding is straight-forward and is mainly filling-out paperwork.
 2. Karen Wilke: A tri-fold with information and contacts (like Sean McCoy) can also be sent out for more information on applying for funding.
- f. Sean McCoy (IDALS) will send out an email with project tri-fold and his contact information to all attendees of this meeting so they can contact him with any questions.

5. Watershed Planning Process (Presented by Adam Rupe, JEO)

- a. Project Status Recap
 - i. August 20, 2020 – Last Meeting
 1. Discussed draft of vision statement
 2. Overview of goal setting process
 3. Small group discussions
- b. Updates to Stakeholder Engagement
 - i. Original project end date: June 30, 2021
 1. New end date: December 31, 2021
 - a. River Trail Meetings moved to virtual
 - b. Attend WMA Meetings through 2021 (in-person or virtual)
 - c. Attempt to hold in-person Open House Meeting

- ii. Updated Timeline
 - 1. Stakeholder Meeting #4
 - a. Finalize goals
 - b. Input on action items and implementation
 - 2. Water Trail Meetings (3)
 - a. Landowners, River Uses, Land Managers/Agencies
 - 3. Stakeholder Meeting #5
 - a. Present Draft Plan
 - b. Review Water Trail Meetings
 - 4. Stakeholder Meeting #6 (Final Meeting)
 - a. Final Draft Plan Presented
 - b. Discuss next steps for implementation (i.e. funding & using plan)
 - 5. Public Open House
 - a. Present the Plan
- iii. Upcoming Water Trail Meetings (Presented by Mike Heller, JEO)
 - 1. Three (3) virtual meetings will be held to gather input on the Boone River Water Trail.
 - a. A separate user group will be invited to each of the three meetings: 1) landowners, 2) river users, and 3) land managers/agencies
 - 2. Objectives:
 - a. Gather ideas/opinions from each user group on the topic of possibly expanding the Boone River Water Trail
 - b. Discuss idea and interests in next steps
 - 3. Will contact registered canoe/kayak users in these areas
 - 4. "Water Trail Expansion Study Area" map will be emailed out to today's meeting attendees (see attached to these minutes)
- c. Finalize Vision Statement
 - i. Updated "Vision Statement" draft for Watershed Plan presented, and suggested that it's ready for adoption
 - 1. Motion to adopt "Vision Statement" in its current form by Dean Kluss, Wright County
 - 2. Seconded by Luke Snyder, Kossuth County
 - 3. "Vision Statement" adopted unanimously
- d. Draft Goals, Objectives, and Strategies
 - i. Overview of the goal setting process includes:
 - 1. Identify issues & solutions
 - a. WMA Stakeholder meetings (2 previous meetings)
 - b. Survey
 - c. Current condition reports
 - 2. Identify themes/topics
 - 3. Draft/refine goals
 - a. Stakeholder input
 - b. Ensure goals are SMART

4. Finalize goals
5. Define objectives, strategies, action items, projects, etc. to meet goals
- ii. Draft Goal Writing:
 1. Goals Include: Indicators, Objectives, and Strategies
 2. Goals written to be long-term and aspirational
 3. Objectives written to be shorter-term (1-5 years)
 - a. Used to identify more specific and measurable outcomes
 - b. Water Quality Goal (Goal #1) is written like an objective, which has the metric directly in it (only exception)
 - i. "Improve water quality by reducing nitrogen loading by 35%"
 4. Objectives and Strategies can fit under multiple goals
 - a. Consider them "mutually supporting"
 5. There is a draft goal for each of the six (6) topic areas:
 - a. 1) Water Quality, 2) Partnerships, 3) Education, 4) Wildlife Habitat, 5) Flood Resiliency, and 6) Recreation
- iii. A document with Draft Goals was provided prior to today's meeting, and Adam requested that comments be sent to him by **December 4th**.
- iv. Adam reiterated that all of these goals are draft in nature, and meant to spur discussion.
- v. Adam provided an overview of Goal #1, as an example of how the other goals are structured. Discussion was also held.
 1. Indicators
 - a. Long Term (Primary): IDNR nitrate monitoring near Stratford.
 - b. Short Term #1: Number of practices installed or adopted over time.
 - c. Short Term #2: Subbasin-level nitrate monitoring provided by ACWA/ISA.
 2. Two (2) Objectives
 - a. #1.1 – Reduce nitrogen loading from cropland through the implementation or adoption of BMPs on XXX acres of cropland by 2025.
 - i. Strategy: Education of producers on BMPs (applicable to accomplishing other objectives)
 - ii. Strategy: Providing cost-share
 - b. #1.2 – Reduce nitrogen loading from communities through the implementation through the implementation of projects or adoption of BMPs within 2 communities by 2025.
 - i. Strategy: Work with ISWEP to educate community on stormwater management
 - ii. Strategy: Work with IDALS urban conservationists to identify potential/best management practices & connect them to funding

vi. Questions

1. Question: Why 35% for TMDL reduction?
 - a. Adam Rupe: 35% covers entire Des Moines River, through the existing Des Moines River TMDL. Other subwatersheds within the Boone have adopted the number as well since they are all “connected” and contributing to the overall TMDL.
2. Question from Rick Young: Are the Iowa Corn Growers and Soybean Associate are on board? What about the Iowa Farm Bureau?
 - a. Joni Erwin, Iowa Corn: I will ask the Sustainability Manager for sure, but she thinks they are on board. I will get back to everyone for sure.
 - b. Karen Wilke: The Farm Bureau usually aren’t involved, historically. They have not had an interest in the project yet, but someone can contact them if they have a good relationship and can maybe engage them. It is assumed that Soybean Association is on board. Also, IIHR Real Time Nitrate Sensors (2 of them) are good indicators for watershed and they are real-time and spread out for water quality data. I will send information about those to Adam.
3. Question from Eric Rector: Can you put the 35% reduction into a total load (pounds or tons per year)?
 - a. Adam Rupe: I don’t know what that number is for sure, but I will review the TMDL report for that information – we may not be able to determine that number since the TMDL Report is for such a big area, and the model that was used is no longer active.
4. Question from Jean Eells: You already have funding for this project, correct? We have funding available at the state level, so let me know if you need more funding. District Committee has funding that I might be able to pull from.
 - a. Dean Kluss: We are always looking for funding. We have funding to develop this plan, so far.
 - b. Adam Rupe: JEO has funding to write the Watershed Plan. We will then investigate funding for plan implementation after it has been written.
 - c. Karen Wilke: WMA is helping bring this project forward and giving it more attention by bringing in more partners to help fund it.
5. Comment from Kyle Ament: 35% is a very conservative number for this plan. Other plans are around 41%, which is the goal for the State Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Boone is on the higher end for nitrate levels within HUC 8s. Two more ideas: sediment and phosphorus levels are worth mentioning, so they might want to be included within the plan.

6. Question from Terry Kaduce: Why is goal #1 super specific with a value to achieve and the other goals are not specific?
 - a. Adam Rupe: Putting a number to water quality is easy for goal #1 (which is the most important goal for this plan). But for example, it's hard to quantify flood resiliency as a number. But these can be modified since they are currently just drafts.
 - b. Karen Wilke: This data is from 2013. 40 lbs/acre. 500,000 acres is the Boone River, so you can do the math to calculate total loading.
 - c. Eric Rector: It is more hard hitting to see numbers instead of percentages. I would rather see a number for the context of what 35% is from.
7. Question from Terry Kaduce: Goal #1 is the only water quality goal. Why is only nitrate being selected?
 - a. Adam Rupe: Nitrate was selected since we have data for nitrate that is easy to obtain and for the TMDL in place, nitrate is the main component of it. A question for the WMA is to determine if they want focus on nitrate or on something else.
 - b. Terry Kaduce: We should look at sediment loading from field runoff as well as phosphorus. We don't just need to limit ourselves to nitrate, there are other water quality factors to be considered. Since the goals (other than #1) are less-specific, maybe we can incorporate other water quality issues into them. Goal #1 seems to be too specific since it's only dealing with nitrate levels.
 - c. Comment from Jean Eells: We could alter Goal #1 to aiming for the water coming out of watershed to be healthy for fish and wildlife and drinkable for cities without much treatment. We might also want to add the outcome of downstream into the goal.
8. Question from David Lee: Wouldn't it be better/easier to monitor water quality closer up-stream instead of downstream? Is the DNR monitoring upstream from Stratford?
 - a. Karen Wilke: We are monitoring at all the scales: all 30 sub-watersheds, 2 middle points (thirds of the stream), and then at the end of the stream. The DNR is not monitoring upstream from Stratford, but Indicator #2 is accounting for making sure the stream is well monitored.
 - b. Adam Rupe: Metrics are hard to decide upon when thinking about how to monitor quality in a watershed. It's important to be accounting for the entire watershed and not just parts of it, like downstream. Those metrics are important when talking to the public and setting goals/taking action towards that goal.

- c. Darrick Weissenfluh: Maybe we can have a metric for each goal that breaks down water quality into different parts as was mentioned earlier. From my perspective, since this is aspirational, even if something is an arbitrary number, it still helps to bring in constituents and goals can be updated. Without targets, goals are flexible, but having metrics for each goal is important. It helps bring in constituents for being able to get behind ideas. Being too vague doesn't bring in people. Metrics helps to define success, so we know if we have fallen "short" on accomplishing our goals.
 - d. Adam Rupe: Looking at the two (2) Objectives for Goal #1, we can create more objectives that address nitrogen loading, phosphorus loading, and sediment loading as we see fit.
 - 9. Comment from Karen Wilke: So, should we start making these tangible goals? Following up with what Darrick says. Let's keep this in mind going forward. We can use these goals as a guide, so they can be modified.
 - a. Adam Rupe: We can move forward with these goals and address them as we see fit. We can always adjust and modify them if needed. It might be good to set specific parameters for goals, so we know when we are meeting those goals.
 - 10. Question from Karen Wilke: Since we cannot go through all the goals today because of a time constraint, how are we going to give feedback on them?
 - a. Adam Rupe: You have been emailed copies of goals, etc. but let me know any questions or comments via email or calls by **December 4th**. I wanted to mainly focus on goal #1 today and walk through the process with everyone in this meeting.
- e. Next Steps & Questions
 - i. **Feedback to Adam Rupe by December 4th**
 - 1. Email or call with any questions/concerns/feedback
 - 2. The draft goals document will be sent out as a Microsoft Word document
 - 3. Draft goals and objectives will be finalized at the next Stakeholder Meeting in February
 - ii. Potential to add another Goal to address data collection
 - 1. Or incorporate a data collection outline into each individual Goal
 - iii. Develop action items to meet Goals
 - 1. Projects, education, strategies, etc.
 - iv. Draft plan chapters will be provided for review
 - v. Water Trail Meetings
 - 1. Will be scheduled soon
 - vi. Comment from Kyle Ament: Now is a great time to give feedback so it doesn't have to be dealt with later in the document development. Let JEO know your feedback as soon as possible so everything can be addressed in advance.

6. Partner Updates

- a. N/A

7. Other Questions/Comments

- a. Karen Wilke
 - i. Public information about this project will be uploaded onto Boone River Watershed website
 - 1. Karen will create one tab for WMA
 - 2. Tab will include current conditions, reports, and all other info will be there for public to access
 - 3. Karen will share link with everyone in this meeting to the website

8. Other Items

- a. Dean Kluss to Kyle Ament: More Potential Funding
 - i. Wright County has \$400,000 SRF Funds that are designated (from the DNR).
 - ii. Dean would like Kyle's assistance with requesting funding if this money can be applicable to the Boone River Watershed.
 - iii. Dean will send information and relevant persons' contacts to Kyle so he can research the SRF funding.
- b. Announcement from Kyle Ament about Iowa River Coalition (similar to the WMA)
 - i. Focusing on incorporating new members
 - ii. Let Kyle know if you, your county, city, or a resident is interested in being on the board of about 18-20 members.
 - 1. Hoping to get about 3-4 representatives from each county/city
 - 2. Incorporating tribes in the area is also an important priority
 - iii. Counties currently interested: Wright & Hancock

9. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, February 18th at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting
 - i. Potential for meeting to be in-person if COVID-19 is more under control

10. Public Comments

- a. N/A

11. Adjourn at 3:33 p.m.

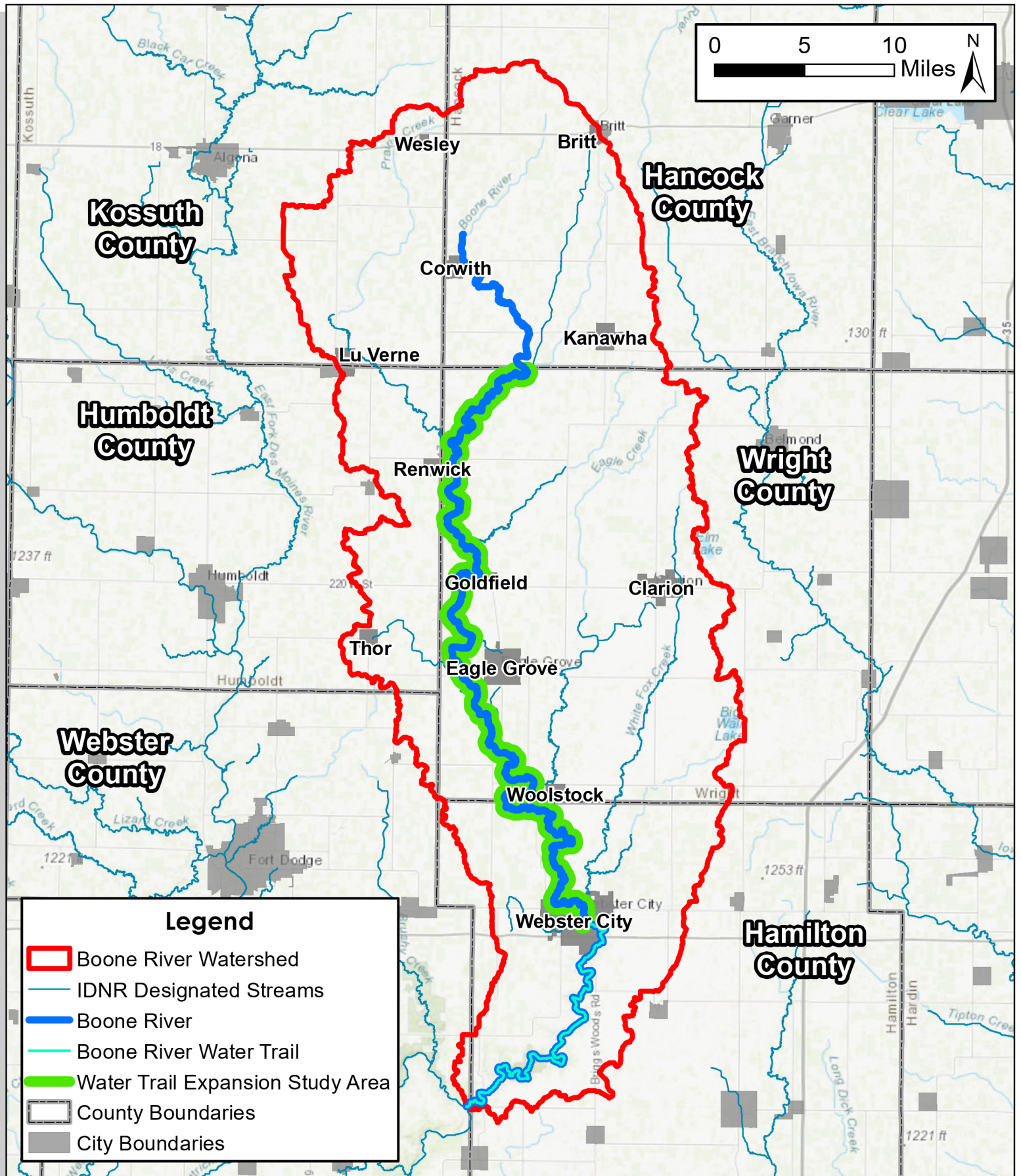
- a. Motion to adjourn – Kossuth County
- b. Second - TC Loving
- c. Motion to adjourn carried – unanimous

WMA Membership Roll Call

Member	Present / Represented by
Counties	
Hancock	None Present
Humboldt	David Lee
Kossuth	Galen Casey
Wright	Dean Kluss
Cities	
Goldfield	None Present
Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)	
Hamilton	Rick Young
Hancock	Terry Kaduce
Humboldt	Jim Sayers
Kossuth	Luke Snyder
Webster	None Present
Wright	Eric Rector

Full Attendance List

1. Adam Rupe, JEO
2. Alyssa Tenorio, JEO
3. Andrea Harris, JEO
4. Andrea Wagner, ISU Masters Student
5. Bob Waters, Iowa Dept. of Ag & Land Stewardship
6. Darrick Weissenfluh, Fish & Wildlife Service
7. David Lee, Humboldt Supervisor
8. Dean Kluss, Wright Supervisor
9. Eric Rector, Wright Conservation Board
10. Galen Casey, Kossuth Supervisor
11. Jamie Benning, ISU Extension
12. Jean Eells, Hamilton SWCD
13. Jim Sayers, Humboldt Commissioner
14. Joni Erwin, Iowa Corn
15. Karen Wilke, The Nature Conservancy
16. Kyle Ament, Iowa DNR
17. Luke Snyder, Kossuth Supervisor
18. Mike Heller, JEO
19. Rick Young, Hamilton Supervisor
20. Roger Tjarks, Kossuth Supervisor
21. TC Loving, Humboldt Commissioner
22. Terry Kaduce, Hancock Commissioner



Created By: DJV
 Date: 4/22/2020
 Software: ArcGIS 10.7.1

Water Trail Expansion Study Area

Boone River Watershed



This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JEO and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JEO does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)
Board Meeting & Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
February 18, 2020; 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Held Virtually via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 2:00 by Dean Kluss, Chairperson

2. Board Member Introduction

- a. Introduction by new attendees
- b. Roll call was taken by Dean, 8 of 11 members were present
 - i. See attached **“WMA Membership Roll Call”**
- c. A quorum was present
- d. See attached **“Full Attendance List”**

3. Minutes from November 19, 2020

- a. Motion to approve by Kossuth County
- b. Motion seconded by Hancock County
- c. Minutes from 11/19/2020 approved unanimously

4. Executive Officer Elections

- a. Motion to cease nominations & cast unanimous ballot by the City of Goldfield (Gabe Fiscus)
- b. Motion seconded by Kossuth County (Roger Tjarks)
- c. Current slate of officers kept unanimously

5. JEO Invoice #122391

- a. Amount of \$21,700
- b. Motion to pay invoice and submit through DNR by Wright County SWCD (Nate Huntley)
- c. Motion seconded by Humboldt County (TC Loving)
- d. JEO Invoice #122391 approved for pay unanimously

6. Des Moines River TMDL & Nutrient Reduction Strategy (Presented by Kyle Ament, DNR)

- a. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)
 - i. Definition: the maximum amount of a pollutant a body of water can assimilate while still meeting water quality standards
- b. Des Moines River TDML – 2009
 - i. Des Moines River identified by Federal Clean Water Act on the State’s 303(d) impaired waters list
 - 1. Impairment caused by high nitrates. Sources of nitrate include soil mineralization & nitrogen fertilizer, legume fixation, animal manure, urban development, septic systems, and natural sources
 - ii. Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model
 - 1. Total of 173 subbasins included in model to evaluate streamflow and pollutant loading patterns
 - 2. Kyle reviewed model maps with the group.

- iii. TMDL Target
 - 1. Meet 10 mg/L @ City of Des Moines 2nd Avenue Intake at all flow scenarios
 - 2. Target Load reduction for Des Moines River Basin: 34.4%
 - 3. Largest nitrate loading during April, May, and June
- iv. Comment from Dean Klaus (Chairperson): The 34.4% only is relative if you know what it is of. That will be a question when we are looking at our plan.
 - 1. Kyle Ament (DNR): Different data flows have been referenced from the 10 to 15-year time period and that data is averaged together. That is the starting point, so the idea is to reduce the values from that timeframe by 34.4%. I did not put that number on here because of different flows, but we will do a better job of explaining this in the future.
- v. Question from Terry Kaduce (Hancock County): As long as the goal of 10 mg/L is met it is fine, right? If you have that set target of 10 mg/L, then the percentage should not matter.
 - 1. Kyle Ament (DNR): Correct. But to make sure we don't exceed 10 mg/L goal, we have to reduce the load by 34.4%, based on the model and changes in flow. The percentage is tied back to that 10 mg/L value to make sure it is not exceeded.
 - 2. Dean Kluss (Chairperson): Have we measured the value recently to see how we are doing?
 - 3. Kyle Ament (DNR): We have data, but it is not from every year. It varies based on the weather. The data needs to show that the 10 mg/L target is not exceeded after many years and cannot be achieved after just one year; need to be able to show trends.
- c. Overview of "Nutrient Reduction Strategy" (prepared by ISU, presented by Kyle Ament)
 - i. Depiction of how load targets for nitrogen and phosphorus are set
 - 1. Factors considered: Iowa's productive soils and cropping systems, society and EPA expectations, Gulf Hypoxia Task Force, and EPA requesting state implementation of practices to address point and non-point sources.
 - 2. Kyle reviewed map of state shares of nutrient delivery to Gulf of Mexico with the group.
 - 3. Partners: IDALS, IDNR, ISU, USDA-ARS, NRCS, local engineers, and cities
 - ii. What is the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy?
 - 1. Voluntary, science-based program to reduce N & P impact on water
 - a. Includes cities, industry, and agriculture
 - b. A practice-based, measurable method
 - c. Framework for innovation and verification of new practices and technologies
 - iii. Nitrogen Reduction Practices Table – Kyle reviewed with group
 - iv. Phosphorus Reduction Practices Table – Kyle reviewed with group
 - v. Goals

1. Point source removal goals: 4% N, 16% P
2. Nonpoint source removal goals: 41% N, 29% P (**45% total for Iowa**)
- vi. Kyle reviewed combination scenarios that achieve N and P goal from NPS.
- vii. Comment from Karen Wilke (TNC): Reducing loading at any rate is very important. We have great water quality data in Iowa. Since 2003, water quality has gotten 100% worse in Iowa. Despite all our efforts, it is still getting worse. We have to do more. Let's not worry too much about these percentages. We need to work on getting the nitrate values to go down.

7. Watershed Planning Process (Presented by Adam Rupe, JEO)

- a. Project Status Update
 - i. November 19, 2020 – Last Meeting Recap
 1. Project update
 2. Previewed water trail meeting plan
 3. Adopted vision statement
 4. Reviewed first draft of goals/objectives
 - ii. Timeline Overview
 1. February 2020 – Fall 2021 (approximate completion)
 - iii. Web Page for Boone River WMA (Created by Karen Wilke, TNC)
 1. Includes Current Condition Reports
 - iv. Watershed Plan Overview
 1. See attached **“Watershed Plan Document”**
- b. Water Trail Meetings (Presented by Mike Heller, JEO)
 - i. Objectives
 1. Gather input on current needs and interest in water trail expansion
 2. Discuss ideas and interests in next steps
 - ii. 3 Separate User Group Virtual Meetings
(see attached **“Water Trail Meeting Summaries”**)
 1. Land Managers/Agencies
 2. Landowners
 3. River Users/Public
 - iii. White Fox Creek
 1. Discussions in all 3 meetings led to decision that White Fox would not serve as a suitable water trail.
 - iv. Public Survey open through March 3rd, 2021
 1. <https://bit.ly/36bcJbX>
 2. Sent via email & posted on Iowa Water Trails website
 3. Total of 98 responses
 4. Survey Results:
 - a. Most responses from non-landowners/“paddlers”
 - b. Top 3 most important factors when visiting a river
 - i. River or stream flow levels
 - ii. Being in a natural setting
 - iii. Water quality

- c. Lots of river use/interest in river
 - d. Other feedback includes:
 - i. Maintaining/improving access points (addition of ramps, cleanliness)
 - ii. Addressing safety (trespassing, signage, litter, Webster City dam)
 - iii. Addressing benefits (economic development, recreational opportunities, respect of nature)
5. *Survey responses favor expanding the Boone River Water Trail*
(from Webster City to Wright/Hancock County line)
- v. Additional Commentary from John Wenck (DNR): I am impressed with the turnout at water trail meetings and the survey responses. There were not many surprises, as there are usually concerns voiced about water trails. A common misconception is that a water trail is a land trail built along-side the river. Goal is to encourage everyone to be neighborly and respectful when using the river to landowners and river users. Iowa has fairly liberal laws when it comes to public use of waters, so relationships with landowners is crucial. At the DNR, we have purchased some private property signs for landowners along the water trail. Looking to solve problems with water trails and encourage respectable usage of rivers.
 - 1. Comment from Mike Heller (JEO): Designated water trails connect agencies, residents, and river users through creating common goals. There is an annual meeting for people to have the opportunity to check-in and voice any concerns with the water trail sponsor. Resolving issues through partnerships within the county creates economic development within the county and communities.
 - vi. Questions
 - 1. Question from Eric Rector (Wright County): You had listed some dams on the proposed water trail that I had never heard of. Are you looking into those?
 - a. Mike Heller (JEO): Yes, and our general consensus is that those dams are more of a river rapid type of situation that have been resolved. Those were mentioned in our river users' meeting.
 - b. John Wenck (DNR): Those two dams are rock/rubble dams. They are not low-head dams (those create deadly hydraulics that can trap people). These dams are not a danger to the public, they are seen more as river rapids. They are listed in the data in the DNR online interactive paddling map (<https://www.iowadnr.gov/paddlingmap>), and they are shown as rapids and not as dams. There is different symbology.
 - 2. Comment from Dean Kluss (Chairperson): The BRWMA does not have intentions of taking the water trail on as a sponsor. In order for it to be designated as a trail, a sponsor must sign a contract with the DNR. That opens up possibility for funding opportunities.

- a. John Wenck (DNR): That is correct. There is still a requirement to apply for planning services which leads to designations which then triggers the agreements between sponsors and land managers along the river.
- c. Goal Updates
 - i. Process Overview – how we determined goals in previous Stakeholder Meetings (today’s focus in **BOLD**)
 - 1. Identify issues & solutions
 - 2. Identify themes/topics
 - 3. Vision Statement – *Adopted*
 - 4. **Draft/refine goals**
 - a. Documents were provided prior to today’s meeting for input
 - i. No feedback yet
 - b. Key Take-A-Ways
 - from Stakeholder Meeting on November 18, 2020
 - i. Focus on water quality
 - ii. Simplify goals
 - iii. Expand pollutants to more than just nitrate
 - iv. Make goals more specific
 - v. Questions on what metric goals should be based on
 - 5. **Finalize goals**
 - 6. Define objectives, strategies, action items, projects, etc. to meet goals
 - ii. Draft 3 of Goals (see attached “**Goals – Draft 3**”)
 - 1. Goal 1 Theme: Water Quality
 - 2. Goal 2 Theme: Wildlife Habitat & Flood Resiliency (combined)
 - 3. Goal 3 Theme: Partnerships, Education, & Recreation (combined)
 - iii. Baseline Water Quality Data
 - 1. Water Quality Monitoring & Stream Gages
 - a. IDNR (1999-PRESENT)
 - b. USGS (Webster City: 1940-PRESENT, Goldfield: 2009-PRESENT)
 - c. IIHR-IFC (Webster City: 2018-PRESENT, Goldfield: 2016-PRESENT)
 - d. ACWA/ISA (2007-PRESENT, 30 sites)
 - 2. Lyon’s Creek Plan
 - a. Used same baseline from TMDL (1999-2006)
 - 3. Recommendation for BRW Plan
 - a. Set baseline for goals on 2007-2013 seasonal averages
 - b. Consistent with three recent plans:
 - i. Prairie Creek, Eagle Creek, & Eagle Grove Plans
 - iv. Goal #1 & Objectives (WATER QUALITY)

Ensure water quality is adequate for all uses, both within the watershed and downstream, by meeting state water quality standards and goals.

 - 1. Objective 1.1: Reduce seasonal average nitrate levels by 41% from 9.8 mg/L to 5.8 mg/L by 2035.

- a. Data support from IDNR, ISA, & IFC Analysis of Nitrate Data
- 2. Objective 2.1: Reduce average annual total phosphorus levels by 29% from 0.21 mg/L to 0.15 mg/L by 2035.
 - a. Data support from IDNR
- 3. Objective 1.3: Reduce sediment loading to streams 24% by 2040.
 - a. Reducing average in-filed erosion rates 25% from 0.59 tons/acre/year to 0.44 tons/acre/year
 - i. Data support from ISU (real-time)
 - b. Reducing stream erosion 10% from 22,950 tons/year to 20,655 tons/year
 - i. Data support from ISA (Prairie Creek Plan)
- 4. Objective 1.4: Reduce E. coli bacteria levels by 98% to ensure no samples exceed 235 organisms/100 mL and *that the seasonal geometric mean is maintained below 126 organisms/100 mL* by 2035.
 - a. Data support from IDNR
 - b. Question from Dean Kluss (Chairperson): Do you attribute the *E. coli* numbers to manure, or is there some other source for that?
 - i. Adam Rupe (JEO): Every other watershed plan I have worked on, the *E. coli* comes from the long-term average. So, we start looking into non-point sources that are widespread in the watershed constantly generating pollutant loads. For this particular watershed, I would like to do a flow-weighted analysis to see if pollutants are coming during high flow periods (therefore from non-point sources) or from lower flow periods when pollutants are most concentrated in the water (therefore from point sources and sources very close to the river).
 - c. IDNR geometric mean data
 - i. High spikes of *E. coli* concentrations in 2006, 2007, 2018
 - ii. Worth looking into, but not in this WMA Plan
 - d. Question from Dean Kluss (Chairperson): The dates you discussed in the goals are 2035 and 2040. Can you discuss why those dates were selected?
 - i. Adam Rupe (JEO): I started with the 2035 date because those are in line with the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy, date also tied to Prairie Creek and Eagle Creek local plans. The 2040 date was selected because when starting this plan and applying for a grant, we aimed for a 20-year Boone River Watershed Plan. So, that established the maximum date of 2040.
- d. Questions
 - i. Question in Chat from Nate Huntley (Wright County): I am curious for thoughts on why levels are increasing so much with the amount of cover crops and

conservation practices that have been implemented...? They are not where we want them to be, but why are they so high? How bad would it be if we did not do those practices?

1. Adam Rupe (JEO): I do not know the exact answer, but part of it is that there are still legacy nitrates, phosphates, and pollutants that have not been flushed out of the watershed yet. Another component is that there still is not enough conservation efforts, and there is a need for more.
2. Comment in Chat from Karen Wilke (TNC): Only about 3% of land is in cover crops. I think we just need conservation practices as a much greater scale to see an improvement in water.
3. Nate Huntley (Wright County): How could the water quality data be so bad (as Karen mentioned earlier about water quality getting 100% worse since 2003) even though we have been implementing stuff (BMPs) within that time period. If we did not have that 3% of land being in cover crops, where would we be with all the legacy pollutants?
4. Dean Kluss (Chairperson): One of our BMPs pinpoints that when you start looking at saturated buffers and bioreactors, think of the amount of tile that has been put into the ground in the last 20 years. I am not sure those numbers are available, but they are astounding.
5. Karen Wilke (TNC): The 3% statistic I gave is statewide and not just for the BRW. There is a lot of research in some other watersheds that have a lot of confinements. This research shows farmers applying 3-4 times the amount (of nutrients) that is recommended. There might be players out there who are not doing what they are supposed to do.
6. Nate Huntley (Wright County): It would be interesting to learn about how much tile has been applied over the years. I know that tile sucks water from below up, correct?
7. Adam Rupe (JEO): Yes, it can, depending on where you put a tile and how deep it is placed. It is generally supposed to capture the infiltration from the surface and get it up to the surface faster.
8. Nate Huntley (Wright County): If you are applying the correct nutrients, they are not supposed to get into your tile lines. So over application is probably a large factor, and the miles of tile added within the last 20 years is probably shocking.
9. Adam Rupe (JEO): I think more tile is installed every year even though there is still so much.
10. Dean Kluss (Chairperson): I think tile is a good thing because I am a farmer. I see tile going in differently than it used to be installed. It used to be separate strains that go to the center of a pond and it had a surface intake in it. That is a point source to me. Whereas, if you see pattern tiles you do not see any surface intake, and I do not see that as a point source.

11. Mike Heller (JEO): To add to what Dean said, it is important to find the balance between not negatively impacting one group versus the other. Along with tile, agriculture producers can install saturated buffers and tile-zone wetlands. There are ways to mitigate and minimize the negative impacts of tiles as well. That all ties into the nutrient loading and BMPs as well.
- ii. Goal #2 & Objectives (FLOOD RESILIENCY & WILDLIFE HABITAT)
Reduce flood risks and improve wildlife habitat within the watershed.
1. Objective 2.1: Complete a study to better understand flood risks and identify mitigation actions by 2023.
 2. Objective 2.2: Integrate the Boone River Watershed Plan with each local county hazard mitigation plan by 2025.
 3. Objective 2.3: Double the amount of wildlife habitat (perennial vegetation) from 46,628 acres to 93,256 acres by 2040.
 - a. 23% reduction (10,793 acres) from baseline to 2020
 - b. Mostly related to conversion of grass/pasture and forest to corn
 - c. Iowa Wildlife Action Plan set a goal of doubling habitat across the state
 4. Comment from Karen Wilke (TNC): We did struggle with quantifying this objective (2.3), but I think you did a nice job with this, Adam. The habitat can mean a lot of different things, and things like wetlands and oxbows will not capture the aquatic habitat. Perennial vegetation is a lot easier to measure than other things.
 5. Comment from Dean Kluss (Chairperson): I want to make sure that the membership understands that this is not acreage along specific watershed waters and tributaries. This is within the boundaries of the watershed. It might be six miles away from the river or any one of those tributary streams. If there is an area with perennials in it, then it is included in those acres.
 6. Adam Rupe (JEO): Yes, this is total acres the entire watershed. As you look at targeting differing locations to put into wildlife habitats, areas near streams and areas that are steep with lots of runoff- those are the areas that would provide you the best water quality benefits. If we really wanted to, we could compare and contrast the actual maps to see where changes occurred spatially in the watershed, but for discussion purposes, we have provided these raw numbers for the watershed.
- iii. Goal #3 & Objectives (PARTNERSHIPS & EDUCATION)
Build an aware and engaged community that works towards improving watershed management.
1. Objective 3.1: Expand WMA membership to all communities, counties, and SWCDs by the end of 2022.
 2. Objective 3.2: Increase the number of individuals, businesses, organizations, state, and federal entities that participate in WMA meetings or watershed projects by 10% each year.

3. Objective 3.3: Utilize an education plan to guide outreach to targeted audiences about watershed conditions, the actions they can take, and resources available to them.
4. Objectives 3.4: Develop a Boone River Water Trail Plan by the end of 2024.

e. Next Steps & Questions

i. Feedback Survey sent to attendants (<http://bit.ly/3ucPPvt>)

1. 5-10 minutes given for responses during meeting (9 responses were collected by end the of this meeting.)
2. Closes Friday, March 5, 2021

ii. Comment from Eric Rector (Wright County): On the average in-field erosion rate of 0.59 tons/acre/year, if that is the actual number, then the rest of the state at 6 tons/acre/year is doing a poor job.

1. Adam Rupe (JEO): Yes, that number is correct. The Boone River Watershed is much lower than the state average for in-field erosion, and I think that is pretty similar across the Des Moines Lobe. I am sure some of that is related to the management practices and producers, but this area has much flatter ground than the rest of the state.
2. Eric Rector (Wright County): I get that. I spent the better part of one day weighing out and figuring out how many ounces per square foot people are losing to what we are not losing, but it was confusing, so I just decided to wait until this meeting to hear about it. I was looking at the .59 tons/acres/year thinking that it must be 5.9 tons/acres/year.
3. Adam Rupe (JEO): That is a great observation. That daily erosion project website is really great for looking at different numbers and data for different years and days. Based on weather, you can see the differing amounts of runoff and erosion from those times.
4. Eric Rector (Wright County): I like to see pounds more than milligrams per Liter in these situations. It is easier to relate to when you are seeing reduction values in pounds. I am bringing this up because when you are displaying the percent reductions, certain organizations will see these numbers as out of context because they are not shown in pounds.
5. Adam Rupe (JEO): A lot of times when we complete these plans, we put numbers in pounds/year or tons/year in the goals. Generally, we have a water quality model we are working through that can populate that for us. For this situation, we do not have a model, but we are lucky to have water quality data we can access that has already been collected. One of the recommended studies/projects I will include in the plan is to do a unified water quality water model in the area since there is such great new data available. Maybe the SWAT model could be used for the Boone River like it was used for the Des Moines river as Kyle Ament suggested. New water quality data, new land use data, and new

conservations practices that have been installed could be put into that SWAT model for the Boone River Watershed.

6. Eric Rector (Wright County): Are there any biological surveys that are accessible online?
 7. Adam Rupe (JEO): Yeah, the DNR keeps a good data base of all the biological sampling they have done over the years (link shared by Mike Heller, JEO & Kyle Ament, DNR for Biological Data: <https://programs.iowadnr.gov/bionet/>). I have not looked at that data base recently in detail, but I know the DNR has done sampling in sites within the Boone River Watershed. Also, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) has done a lot of work with mussels and has published some papers on mussels.
 8. Karen Wilke (TNC): We did a lot with mussels and macro-invertebrates, but that was back in 2003. The DNR has done a lot of mussel surveys along the whole Boone River. We have gotten like an "A+" on mussel health. We can share those research publications. We also have done a lot of fish surveys on the Boone River's tributaries. We were looking for the *Topeka Shiner* as well as tracking other fish there. A lot of this information should be on the Boone River website under a 'Research' tab, but I will also send this information out for anyone who is interested.
 9. Adam Rupe (JEO): The water quality numbers are great measurable, hard metrics, but what really matters is the drinking water quality and how pollutants are affecting nature itself like fish populations and invertebrate populations.
- iii. Next Steps
1. Finalize water quality data review
 2. Updating goals/objectives based on feedback
 - a. Feedback from this meeting & survey open through Friday, March 5
 - b. Adopt at next meeting
 3. Draft Strategies Framework
 - a. Action Plan
 - b. BMP Targets
 - c. Education Plan
 4. Integrate into draft watershed plan
 5. Begin sending draft plan chapters for review

8. Partner Updates

- a. Jennifer Terry (Des Moines Water Works)
 - i. Very eager to help with the plan or any outreach efforts (with Practical Farmers of Iowa)
 - ii. Des Moines Water Works would like to host a tour in August for the Des Moines Water Works treatment plant for Boone WMA (groups up to 20)

1. Contact Jennifer for coordinating
- iii. New CEO and General Manager – Ted Corrigan, Engineer
 1. If interested, he can present about the Des Moines river at a WMA meeting

9. Other Questions/Comments

- a. Andrea Wagner (Iowa State Graduate Student) – Update on Research
 - i. I have been conducting qualitative research on watershed organizations around Iowa for about a year – including the Boone River Watershed
 1. Research: comparative analysis of the social infrastructure of different watershed groups and how it impacts the ability for the groups to achieve/accomplish their goals
 2. Thesis will be available mid-April
 - a. Individualized report from Boone River WMA (anonymous data)
 3. Is it okay if I use the draft goals and objectives in my thesis research?
 - a. Membership has no objections. Dean Kluss (Chairperson) gives permission as long as credit is provided, Andrea agreed.

10. Other Items

- a. N/A

11. Next Meeting

- a. Thursday, May 20th at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom Meeting
 - i. This date works for JEO and DNR's timelines
 - ii. Potential for meeting to be in-person if COVID-19 vaccinations have occurred
 1. Fall meeting will tentatively be in-person

12. Public Comments

- a. N/A

13. Adjourn at 3:55 p.m.

- a. Motion to adjourn – Kossuth County
- b. Second – Humboldt County (TC Loving)
- c. Motion to adjourn carried – unanimous

WMA Membership Roll Call

Member	Present / Represented by
Counties	
Hancock	<i>None Present</i>
Humboldt	David Lee
Kossuth	Galen Casey
Wright	Dean Kluss
Cities	
Goldfield	<i>None Present</i>
Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)	
Hamilton	Rick Young
Hancock	Terry Kaduce
Humboldt	Adam Asche
Kossuth	Luke Snyder
Webster	<i>None Present</i>
Wright	Nate Huntley

Full Attendance List

1. Adam Asche, Humboldt NRCS
2. Adam Rupe, JEO
3. Alyssa Tenorio, JEO
4. Andrea Harris, JEO
5. Andrea Wagner, ISU Masters Student
6. Bob Waters, Iowa Dept. of Ag & Land Stewardship
7. Darrick Weissenfluh, US Fish & Wildlife Service
8. David Lee, Humboldt Supervisor
9. Dean Kluss, Wright Supervisor
10. Eric Rector, Wright Conservation Board
11. Galen Casey, Kossuth Supervisor
12. Jean Eells, Hamilton SWCD
13. Jennifer Terry, External Affairs Manager at Des Moines Water Works
14. Jim Sayers, Humboldt Commissioner
15. John Wenck, Iowa DNR
16. Karen Wilke, The Nature Conservancy
17. Kyle Ament, Iowa DNR
18. Luke Snyder, Kossuth Supervisor
19. Mike Heller, JEO
20. Nate Huntley, Wright SWCD
21. Rick Young, Hamilton Supervisor
22. Roger Tjarks, Kossuth Supervisor
23. TC Loving, Humboldt Commissioner
24. Terry Kaduce, Hancock Commissioner

WATERSHED PLAN DOCUMENT

Chapter	Status
Executive Summary	Last item to be completed
Chapter 1 – Introduction	Ready for WMA Review
Chapter 2 – Watershed Inventory	Internal Review
Chapter 3 – Current Conditions	Internal Review
Chapter 4 – Goals	Awaiting goals approval from WMA
Chapter 5 – Implementation Strategy	Drafting
Chapter 6 – Education Plan	Drafting
Chapter 7 – Action Plan	Drafting
Chapter 8 – Funding	Drafting
Appendices / Technical Memos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Condition Reports (8) • Existing BMP Estimates • Hazard Mitigation Projects 	Complete






Water Trail Meeting Summaries

WATER TRAIL MEETINGS

<p>Land Manager Meeting 2/9/21 9 attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success with current Boone River Water Trail in Hamilton Co., desire from residents to extend trail north • Concerns with seasonal viability of water trail extension, access locations 	<p>Landowner Meeting 2/9/21 11 attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns with trespassing, liability, seasonal viability of water trail extension 	<p>River User/Public Meeting 2/10/21 15 attendees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support in extending water trail north to Goldfield area • Concerns with seasonal viability of water trail extension
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GOALS – DRAFT 3

Water Quality		Ensure water quality is adequate for all uses, both within the watershed and downstream, by meeting state water quality standards and goals.
Flood Resiliency Wildlife Habitat		Reduce flood risks and improve wildlife habitat within the watershed.
Partnerships Education Recreation		Build an aware and engaged community that works towards improving watershed management.



Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)
Board Meeting & Stakeholder Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2021; 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. (Held Virtually via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 2:05 by Dean Kluss, Chairperson

2. Board Member Introduction

- a. Roll call was taken by Kluss, 6 of 11 members were present
 - i. See attached **“WMA Membership Roll Call”**
- b. A quorum was present
- c. See attached **“Full Attendance List”**

3. Minutes from February 18, 2021

- a. Motion to approve by Loving (Humboldt)
- b. Motion seconded by Kaduce (Hancock)
- c. Minutes from 2/18/2021 approved unanimously

4. Watershed Planning Process (Adam Rupe, JEO)

- a. General Project Updates
 - i. Timeline:
 - 1. Spring Summer 2021
 - a. Get goals adopted
 - b. Review action items and BMPs
 - c. Review implementation strategy
 - 2. Fall 2021
 - a. Present draft plan
 - b. Public open house
 - c. Finalize/adopt plan
 - ii. Plan Status
 - 1. Current condition reports and Chapter 1 have been submitted and reviewed. Additional chapters are forthcoming.
 - 2. See status chart attached to minutes.
- b. Adopt Goals
 - i. Stakeholder Informed Goals:
 - 1. Water Quality
 - 2. Flood Resiliency / Wildlife Habitat
 - 3. Partnerships / Education / Recreation
 - ii. Goals ready for adoption
 - 1. Final draft reviewed at last meeting
 - 2. Online survey feedback shared 100% agreement for goals
 - 3. Motion to approve goals Snyder (Kossuth)
 - 4. Motion seconded Loving (Humboldt)
 - 5. Motion approved unanimously
- c. Prioritization of Implementation Areas

- i. BMP Targets
 - 1. Master List shared previously with group
 - 2. Estimate on existing BMP levels compiled
 - 3. ACPF data obtained and analyzed
 - 4. Target levels for most BMPs drafted
 - 5. Map of varying levels of ACPF by HUC 12
 - a. Recommend to complete or update ACPF on areas prioritized for implementation
- ii. Questions/Comments:

Kluss: How do we administer ACPF and practice it?

Rupe: Mostly institutions are involved in this

Ament: Iowa State University has been involved in the past.

Benning: Mostly when ISU has done this it has been a part of an academic project.

Loving: Does this need to be done continuously and consistently?

Rupe: There is a lot that depends on when you conduct this but usually it is just when major land use changes happen. However usually what the tool finds can withstand for a while.

Loving: Does landowner involvement need to happen along with this tool?

Rupe: It is more of a tool to use to help have a conversation with landowners about implementation projects. Not so much “here is what we are going to do with your land”.

Rupe made suggestion for BMP targets with the working draft he sent previously to the group.

Ament: Questions about implementing this at HUC 12 levels?

Kluss: What is the difference between HUC 12, 10, & 8?

Rupe: Discussed the differences and what implementation looks like at each level, and most watershed implementation projects are done at the HUC 10 or 12 level

Rector: Double counting of BMPs? And what does this mean?

Rupe: At the end of the day, the exact numbers at the watershed level do not matter. But it does help us with tracking purposes for BMPs.
- iii. BMP Targets Discussion Points

Kluss: Not all of the above but look at best management practices that we’ve already seen utilized in our watershed area. Need to see all values: monetary, ethics, etc.

Kaduce: Wouldn’t it be best to prioritize BMPs that give us best bang for our buck instead of a broad perspective of it?

Rupe: It is hard to find the best deal at such a large scale but if there is existing literature on cost effectiveness we could use. I don’t know how exactly we compare everything to each other

Rector: Knows of this kind of literature we can use

Loving: Some infill practices that keep nutrition in the field, is this the best for soil health, making money with farming? Should we mainly base BMP prioritization on agricultural uses?

Kluss: Agrees with Loving's suggestion. That is the starting point for what we want to target. Most land use in the watershed, 85%, is rural crop. The standard of farming is something that can be applied to most of the land within this watershed.

Rupe: You don't want to limit it too much because it could leave out potential landowners or existing future development. Best to keep it wider open and then if a client or project comes in that wants something more specific, you can apply that perspective.

Ament: I agree and there isn't much monetary value in limiting ourselves to only a few BMPs.

Rupe: Because there are so many partners, one partner could take their own specific focus for a practice or project. For now, I think an overarching plan that anyone can use is the best option. It will make it a fairly broad plan that can leave next steps vague. But next action items can help alleviate that.

d. Identification of Education & Outreach Needs

i. Purpose

1. Narrow down initial focus of implementation
2. Identify where first project area would be
3. Allow results to be measured

ii. Two general approaches

1. Geographic v. Resource based
2. Geographic Location Examples
 - a. HUC 12
 - b. Stream corridors
 - c. High runoff areas
 - d. Communities

3. Resources Based Examples

- a. Tile drained fields
- b. Stormwater
- c. Nitrogen
- d. Field erosion
- e. Etc.

iii. Also consider immediate areas of opportunity

iv. Initial recommendation by JEO

1. Blend these two approaches
 - a. HUC 12 focus
 - b. Address areas without existing plans
 - c. Prioritize areas with highest nitrogen levels
 - d. Still allow for additional targeting within the priority area

v. Nitrate Levels

1. Attached map with highest areas
2. Recommendation by JEO
 - a. 3 Areas: Otter Cree, Drainage Ditch #9, & Brewers Creek
 - i. See attached map

- b. Allows for addressing multiple issues
 - i. High nitrates
 - ii. Geographic distribution
 - iii. Drainage ditches
 - iv. Small & Large HUC 12s
 - v. Communities/Stormwater
 - vi. Discussion
 - Kluss:** Importance of Brewers Creek
 - Rupe:** Close to mouth of river. Might show results quickest might help flow down the river, etc.
 - Kaduce:** Timeline?
 - Rupe:** Overall plan is a 20-year plan. First action items will be done in 5 years. Might pick one area to focus on first 5 years and then move on to the next priorities.
 - Ament:** Follow up input might be biased toward local area of interest. Is there opportunity to pick a second tier of priority areas in case social interest is not there.
 - Rupe:** Agreed.
- e. Review Draft Strategic Framework: Action Plan, BMP Targets, Education Plan
 - 1. Four categories:
 - a. Monitoring & Evaluation
 - b. Projects & Studies
 - c. Education
 - d. Policy & Partnerships
 - 2. Small Group Break Out discussions (15-20 minutes)
 - a. Ensure all potential items are identified
 - b. Prioritize top items for next 5 years
 - 3. Top priorities discussed by small groups
 - a. Monitoring & Evaluation group
 - i. Water quality monitoring
 - ii. River trails and monitoring river usage
 - b. Education group
 - i. We need to improve signage and accessibility for the river and that the DNR should lead that
 - ii. Increase signage of BMPs to raise awareness of work already being done
 - iii. **Add: There may already be partners doing these things and who are they and how can we work together?
 - iv. **Add: Constant turnover from WMA members can be difficult. It can set back progress, so if education group could create an on-boarding document or a quarterly progress report?
 - v. Discussion

Kluss: Should include explanation and education around the various acronyms involved in this project and report.

- c. Policy and Partnership group
 - i. Watershed coordinator
 - 1. Maintain that position so they could knock off a lot of the items in that list.
 - 2. How do we pay that person and what grants can we use?
 - 3. And we want them to be local but to be able to keep the whole watershed in mind
- d. Projects & Studies group
 - i. Completing a hydrologic assessment of the watershed
 - ii. Develop a unified water quality model
 - 1. SWAT model from Des Moines River could be updated to do this
 - iii. Completing a detailed evaluation of drainage ditches infrastructure
 - iv. ****Add:** Gauge BMP retention levels
 - v. ****Add:** Apply for funding through grants, partner contributions, or other means to fund operations

5. Partner Updates

- a. Hamilton County considering joining WMA
 - i. Ament in discussion with them

6. Questions/Comments

- a. Will be sending more updates and action items on to entire WMA after this meeting.
 - i. Next meeting
 - 1. Discussion topics:
 - a. Continue sending draft plan chapters for review
 - b. Update Action Plan based on feedback
 - i. Online survey open until Friday, June 11
 - ii. Adopt at next meeting
 - c. Begin planning open house
 - 2. Next meeting August 19th, 2021
 - a. Plan to be in person
 - b. Location TBD, will choose by June, send suggestions to Kluss
 - c. Time 2-4pm

7. Public comments

- a. None

8. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn Loving (Humboldt)
- b. Motion to adjourn second Eells (Hamilton)
- c. Motion carries unanimously

WMA Membership Roll Call

Member	Present / Represented by
Counties	
Hancock	<i>None Present</i>
Humboldt	<i>None Present</i>
Kossuth	Galen Casey
Wright	Dean Kluss
Cities	
Goldfield	Gabe Fiscus
Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)	
Hamilton	None
Hancock	Terry Kaduce
Humboldt	TC Loving
Kossuth	Luke Snyder
Webster	<i>None Present</i>
Wright	None Present

Full Attendance List




1. Adam Rupe, JEO
2. Alyssa Tenorio, JEO
3. Angie Rieck-Hinz, Field Agronomist Iowa State Extension
4. Brian Tumey, Kossuth County NRCS
5. Darrick Weissenfluh, US Fish & Wildlife Service – Iowa
6. Dean Kluss, Wright Supervisor
7. Eric Rector, Wright Conservation Board
8. Gabe Fiscus, City of Goldfield
9. Galen Casey, Kossuth Supervisor
10. Heidi Keuler, Fish Habitat Biologist US Fish & Wildlife Service – La Crosse, WI
11. Jean Eells, Hamilton SWCD
12. Jessica Downey, District Conservationist Hamilton county NRCS
13. Joanie Erwin, District Field Manager North Central Iowa, Iowa Corn Growers
14. Kristen Ohnoutka, JEO
15. Kyle Ament, Iowa DNR
16. Luke Snyder, Kossuth Supervisor
17. TC Loving, Humboldt Commissioner
18. Terry Kaduce, Hancock Commissioner

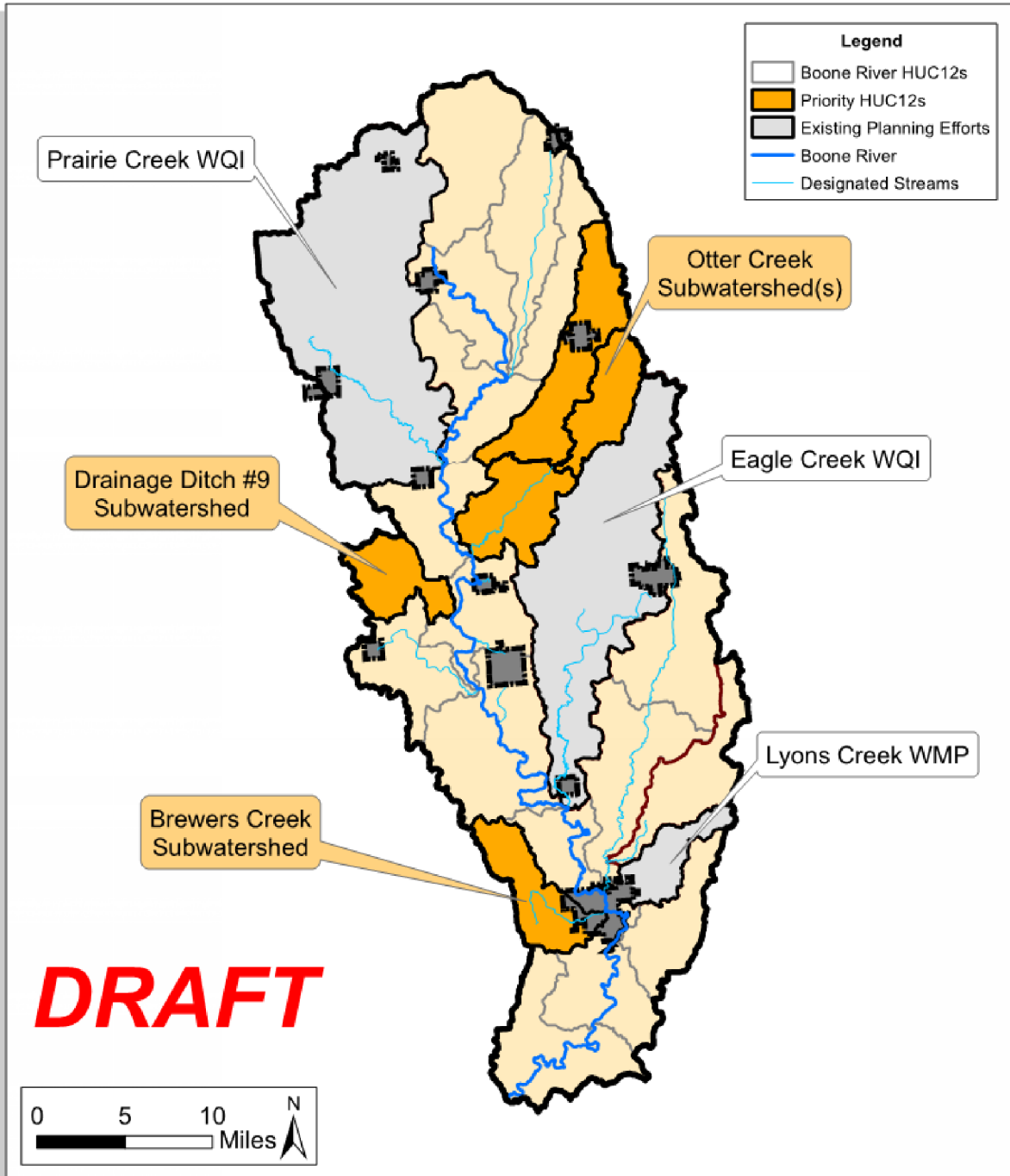
WATERSHED PLAN DOCUMENT

Chapter	Status
Executive Summary	Last item to be completed
Chapter 1 – Introduction	Sent to TAT on April 29 th
Chapter 2 – Watershed Inventory	Preparing to Send to TAT
Chapter 3 – Current Conditions	Internal Review
Chapter 4 – Goals	Awaiting goals approval from WMA
Chapter 5 – Implementation Strategy	Drafting
Chapter 6 – Education Plan	Drafting
Chapter 7 – Action Plan	Drafting
Chapter 8 – Funding	Drafting
Appendices / Technical Memos <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Condition Reports (8) • Existing BMP Estimates • Hazard Mitigation Projects 	Complete

Goals – Approved 5/20/2021

GOALS READY FOR ADOPTION

Water Quality		Ensure water quality is adequate for all uses, both within the watershed and downstream, by meeting state water quality standards and goals.
Flood Resiliency Wildlife Habitat		Reduce flood risks and improve wildlife habitat within the watershed.
Partnerships Education Recreation		Build an aware and engaged community that works towards improving watershed management.



Created By: ADR
 Date: 5/1/2021
 Software: ArcGIS 10.7.1

This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JED and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JED does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plan.

Priority Areas for Implementation

Boone River
 Watershed Management Plan



Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)

Board Meeting & Stakeholder Meeting Minutes

August 19, 2021; 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Wright County Extension Office in Clarion, IA (virtual option provided via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

Note: Due to audio difficulties experienced during the meeting, online participants left the meeting early. These difficulties also impacted the ability to complete meeting notes, which are typically prepared from the meeting recording.

1. Call Meeting to Order

- a. Meeting called to order at 2:05 by Dean Kluss, Chairperson
- b. Roll call was taken by Kluss
 - i. Four (4) members were present
 - ii. A quorum was not present
- c. Full attendance list and sign-in sheet attached

2. Minutes from May 20, 2021

- a. No questions or additions were noted
- b. Minutes were not approved as there was no quorum

3. Watershed Planning Process (Adam Rupe, JEO)

- a. The following items were presented and discussed
 - i. Project status and recap of the May 20th meeting
 - ii. Input on implementation areas
 - iii. Review of draft action plan
 - iv. Planning for the public open house meeting
 - v. Process of adopting the watershed plan
 - vi. Next steps and questions
- b. A copy of the presentation slides are attached to these meeting notes
- c. At the May 20th meeting, there was a request to add additional priority areas
 - i. The map has been updated and additional feedback was gathered
 - ii. The map will be updated and sent out to the WMA for additional feedback after this meeting
- d. The draft Action Plan was reviewed with the group and feedback was obtained for each category
 - i. A draft of this was sent to the WMA over the summer and responses were received via email and through an online survey.
 - ii. The current draft will be updated and sent out to the WMA for additional feedback after the meeting
- e. Next steps in the planning process were discussed:
 - i. JEO to attend a final quarterly WMA meeting to review draft plan and incorporate final feedback
 - ii. JEO will coordinate a public open house for public review of the draft plan
 1. A date for this will be set at the November meeting. Possibly to be held at the end of December.

2. Will hold the event over the lunch hour, and will try to find a food sponsor
- iii. JEO will provided the final plan for DNR review and adoption by the WMA

4. Overview of Fish Passage Study

- a. Kyle Ament provided an overview of a study that was previously completed. He will send out a copy to the group.

5. Partner Updates

- a. None

6. Questions/Comments

- a. None

7. Next meeting

- a. Proposed for November 18, 2021
- b. Held in-person with a virtual option

8. Public comments

- a. None

9. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn
- b. Motion to adjourn second
- c. Motion carries unanimously

WMA Membership Roll Call

Member	Present / Represented by
Counties	
Hancock	<i>None Present</i>
Humboldt	<i>None Present</i>
Kossuth	<i>None Present</i>
Wright	Dean Kluss
Cities	
Goldfield	<i>None Present</i>
Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)	
Hamilton	<i>None Present</i>
Hancock	<i>None Present</i>
Humboldt	TC Loving
Kossuth	Luke Snyder
Webster	<i>None Present</i>
Wright	Nate Huntley


Full Attendance List

1. Joined Online via Zoom
 - James Sayer, Humboldt County SWCD
 - Darrick, Weissenfluh, USFWS
 - Mike Heller, JEO
2. Joined In-person (see attached sign-in sheet)
 - Dean Kluss, Wright County Supervisor
 - Kyle Ament, Iowa DNR
 - Eric Rector, Wright County Conservation Board
 - Adam Rupe, JEO
 - Angie Rieck-Hinz, ISU Extension (also joined via Zoom)
 - Luke Snyder, Kossuth County SWCD
 - TC Loving, Humboldt County SWCD
 - Nate Huntley, Wright County SWCD



Please sign in. Email is optional.		
Event: Boone River WMA	Date: August 19, 2021	This institution is an equal opportunity provider. For the full non-discrimination statement or accommodation inquiries, go to www.extension.iastate.edu/diversity/ext ADV. 20.04 June 2020
Name:	County:	Email:
DEAN KLUSS	WRIGHT	DKLUSS@CO.WRIGHT.IA.US
Kyle Amant	DNR	
Eric Rector	WRIGHT	erector@co.wright,ia.us
Adam Rice	JEO	arpr@jeo.com
Ange Reck-Hir	JSU	anvieck@iastate.edu
LUKE SNYDER	KOSSUTH SWCD	tsnyl@ke.snyder.2372@gmail.com
T C Loving	Humboldt SWCD	loving@twocanoes.com
NATE HUNTER	WRIGHT Co SWCD	huntnghts@gmail.com

BOONE RIVER WMA QUARTERLY MEETING

August 19, 2021




Please sign-in using the chat window
Include: Name and Organization




1


TODAY'S JEO TEAM



Mike Heller, CPESC
Project Manager



Adam Rupe, CERP
Lead Planner



2

DISCUSSION OVERVIEW

- Project status
- Implementation areas
- Action plan
- Open house planning
- Plan adoption process
- Next steps & questions



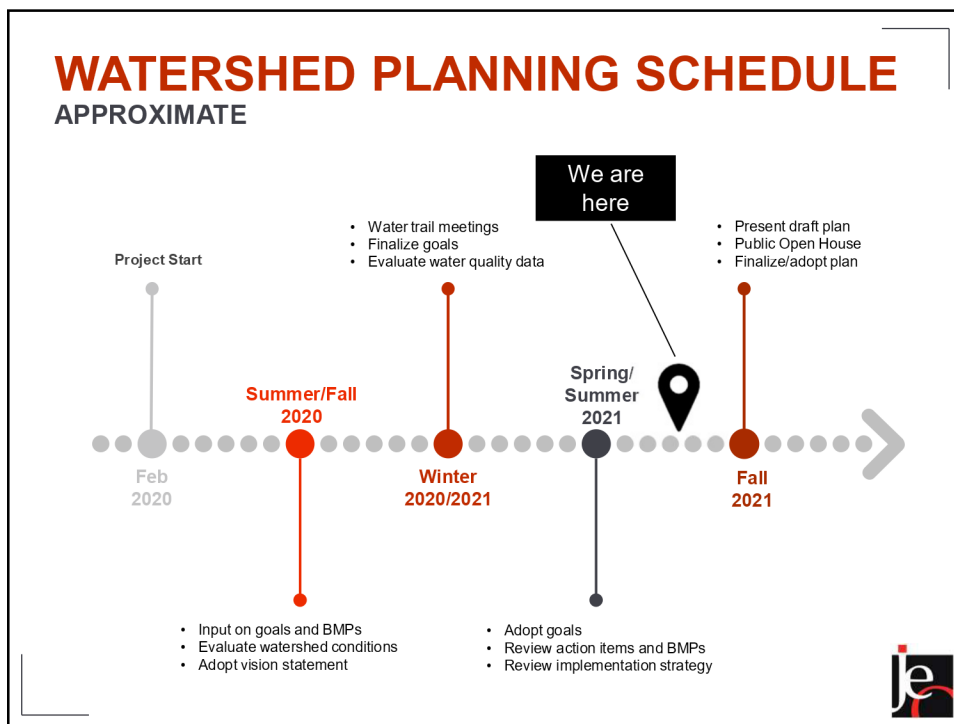
3

MEETING RECAP MAY 20, 2020

- Notes were provided
- Adopted goals
- Overview of implementation strategy
- Reviewed BMP targets
- Identified priority subwatersheds (HUC 12s)
 - Request for additional areas identified
- Small group discussion on Action items



4



5

WATERSHED PLAN DOCUMENT

Chapter	Status
Executive Summary	Last item to be completed
Chapter 1 – Introduction	Sent to TAT
Chapter 2 – Watershed Inventory	Sent to TAT
Chapter 3 – Current Conditions	Internal Review
Chapter 4 – Goals	Internal Review
Chapter 5 – Implementation Strategy	Drafting, pending WMA feedback
Chapter 6 – Education Plan	Drafting, pending WMA feedback
Chapter 7 – Action Plan	Drafting, pending WMA feedback
Chapter 8 – Funding	Drafting, pending WMA feedback
Appendices / Technical Memos • Current Condition Reports (8) • Existing BMP Estimates • Hazard Mitigation Projects	Complete

6



IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

A Strategic Framework



7





IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY


A STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

What do you want to do?

Where do you want to do it?

Based on four major components.

 BMP Targets Long Term	 Priority Areas Geographic or Resource Focused
 Action Plan Short Term	 Education Plan Supports Action Plan



8

PRIORITY AREAS

- Purpose is to
 - Narrow down the initial focus of implementation
 - Identify where the first project area would be
- Allow results to be measured
- Consider areas of immediate opportunities
- Specific efforts could also vary between partners

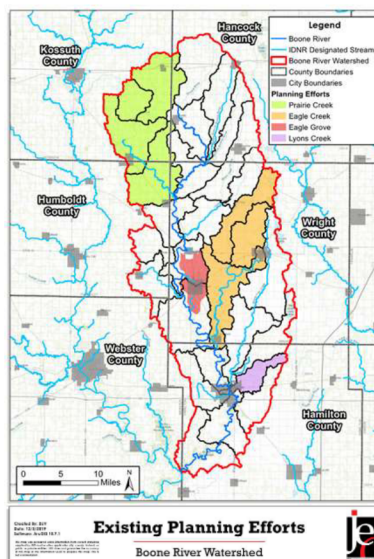


9

PRIORITY AREAS

Initial Recommendation

- HUC 12 focus
- Address areas without existing plans
- Prioritize areas with highest nitrogen levels
- Would still allow for additional targeting within the priority area

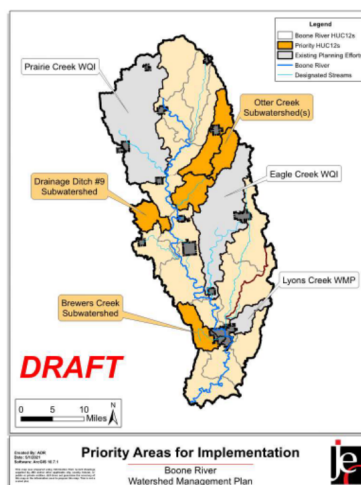


10

PRIORITY AREAS

Initial Recommendation

- 3 HUC 12s (81,628 acres)
 - Otter Creek (3 HUC 12s)
 - Drainage Ditch #9
 - Brewers Creek
- Allows for addressing multiple issues
 - High nitrates
 - Geographic distribution
 - Drainage ditches
 - Small & large HUC12s
 - Communities/Stormwater
- *Request made for “tier 2 areas” to be identified*



11

PRIORITY AREAS

Tier 2 Recommendation

- Reviewed IFC analysis in the *Des Moines River Upstream Mitigation Study*
- Identified potential (ACPF) and actual (IBMP) HUC 12 BMP densities in BRW
- Identified “unmet potential” for BMP implementation

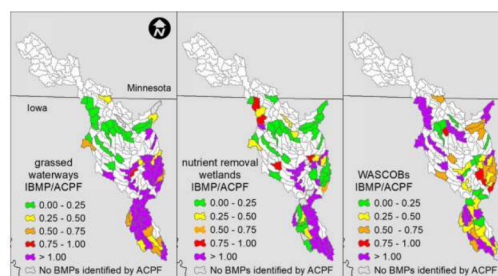


Figure 2.18: Ratio of existing BMPs to potential BMPs identified using the ACPF tool in 68 of the 185 HUC 12 watersheds in the Des Moines River watershed upstream of the City of Des Moines. Lower values indicate greater unmet potential.

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PRIORITY AREAS

Table 2.9. Potential (ACPF) and actual (IBMP) HUC 12 BMP densities in the Boone River HUC 8. Grey numerals indicate the IBMP density is greater than the ACPF density, suggesting limited opportunities for new installations. Lightly-shaded cells indicate differences between ACPF and IBMP are greater than the mean value for that practice, suggesting higher potential for new practices. Darkly-shaded cells indicate differences between ACPF and IBMP are greater than one standard deviation above the mean value for that practice, suggesting the highest potential for new practices.

HUC 12	grassed waterway density (acres / sq. mi.)		wetland density (# / sq. mi.)		WASCOB density (# / sq. mi.)	
	ACPF	IBMP	ACPF	IBMP	ACPF	IBMP
071000050201	0.1	1.2	0.29	0.00	0.54	0.54
071000050203	0.1	0.4	0.22	0.00	0.04	0.09
071000050303	0.2	0.7	0.11	0.04	0.30	0.00
071000050401	1.0	1.1	0.07	0.04	0.08	0.00
Headwaters Eagle Creek	6.1	2.3	0.15	0.33	1.47	0.21
071000050403	0.3	0.3	0.00	0.04	0.64	0.35
071000050501	1.0	2.3	0.21	0.00	0.64	0.35
071000050502	1.4	1.0	0.29	0.07	0.65	0.25
071000050503	0.4	1.9	0.18	0.00	0.49	0.49
071000050601	0.1	0.5	0.04	0.04	0.20	0.89
071000050602	0.4	0.2	0.00	0.00	0.10	0.42
071000050604	0.1	0.9	0.04	0.18	0.43	0.50
071000050605	0.7	1.0	0.16	0.04	0.86	1.01
071000050606	0.9	0.6	0.00	0.00	0.90	0.87
Lyons Creek	0.2	2.0	0.74	0.12	0.49	0.56
071000050703	0.6	1.3	0.21	0.13	0.88	0.21
071000050705	0.3	0.6	0.06	0.39	0.19	1.83



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PRIORITY AREAS

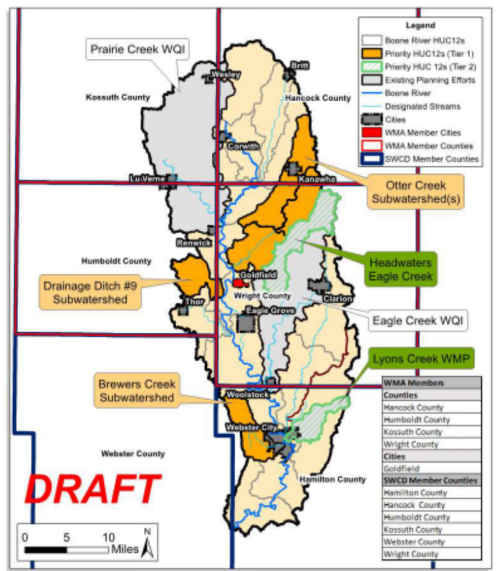
- Tier 1
 - Allows for addressing multiple issues
 - High nitrates
 - Geographic distribution
 - Drainage ditches
 - Small & large HUC12s
 - Communities/Stormwater
- Tier 2
 - Address “highest potential” for BMP adoption
 - Build off existing projects
 - Still addressing high nitrate areas



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PRIORITY AREAS

- Tier 1 and 2 areas provide options across multiple WMA members
- *WMA Feedback??*



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ACTION PLAN


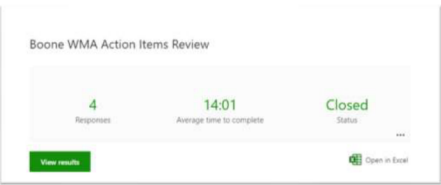
- Provides specific guidance during next 1-5 years
- Four categories
 - Monitoring & Evaluation
 - Projects & Studies
 - Education
 - Policy & Partnerships




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ACTION PLAN

- Small group discussion held last meeting
- Follow up input via:
 - Online survey (4)
 - Email (1)
- Input has been compiled to create full draft Action Plan








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ACTION PLAN


- Top 5(ish) has been identified for each category
- Some supporting information has been identified:
 - Timeline
 - Activity lead
 - Potential partners
 - Technical and Funding Resources




MONITORING & EVALUATION



PROJECTS & STUDIES




EDUCATION



PARTNERSHIPS & POLICY

▪ *WMA Feedback??*



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Table XX: Action Plan for Monitoring & Plan Evaluation Activities

MONITORING & PLAN EVALUATION						
#	Action Item and Description	Goals Addressed	Timeline/ Milestones	Primary Activity Lead (s)	Potential Partner(s)	Primary Technical or Funding Resources
1	Track as-len numbers counts BMP p					
2	Develop local implementation purpose adopt scale t identifi					
3	Continue water sampling IWR in Iowa 5 (Agric Alliance					
4						
5						

Table XX: Action Plan for Partnerships & Policy Activities

PARTNERSHIPS & POLICY						
#	Action Item and Description	Goals Addressed	Timeline/ Milestones	Primary Activity Lead (s)	Potential Partner(s)	Primary Technical or Funding Resources
1	Hire and watershed using fur partner s					
2	Create a report of finances					
3	Current t partners potentia basis to i updates of recrui WMA					
4	Keep a st meeting s or partn					
5	Bring prc county s give ther we coul					

Table XX: Action Plan for Education Activities

EDUCATION						
#	Action Item and Description	Goals Addressed	Timeline/ Milestones	Primary Activity Lead (s)	Potential Partner(s)	Primary Technical or Funding Resources
1	Install BM highlights or produc					
2	Enhance s visibility a watershed					
3	Install wat awareness					
4	Promote i informati projects h getting th existing o					
5	Create an would hel speed on i updates.					

Table XX: Action Plan for Projects & Studies

PROJECTS & STUDIES								
#	Action Item and Description	Goals Addressed			Timeline/ Milestones	Primary Activity Lead (s)	Potential Partner(s)	Primary Technical or Funding Resources
		1	2	3				
1	Apply for grant funding to implement BMPs, education, and outreach, or other activities within a priority subwatershed.	X	X	X	By the end of 2022	WMA	IDNR, IFC, IDALS, TNC	IDNR, IDALS, USFWS
2	Complete a hydrologic assessment of the watershed to understand the hydrology, historic floods, future hydrologic trends, and evaluate structural and nature-based flood mitigation strategies at the watershed level.		X		By the end of 2023	WMA	Engineering Consultant	IFC
3	Develop a unified water quality model for the BRW that addresses nutrients, sediment, and bacteria. The existing Des Moines River SWAT model could possibly be used as a baseline.	X	X	X	Begin in 2024	WMA	Engineering Consultant	IDNR
4	Complete a detailed evaluation and mapping of drainage district infrastructure.	X	X	X	By the end of 2026	County drainage districts	Engineering Consultant	Counties
5	Gauge BMP retention levels with randomized yearly follow-ups with operators who implement practices. This information can be used for monitoring progress and improving outreach efforts or BMP designs.	X	X	X	Beginning in 2022	WMA	ISU Extension	CCBs
6	Develop a BMP demonstration farm that can be used for education, outreach, and research at the local level.	X	X	X	Begin initial process in 2022	Wright County	IDALS, ISU, IDNR, TNC	IDALS, ISU, IDNR, TNC,

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NEXT STEPS




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NEXT STEPS

- Final Quarterly WMA Meeting
 - Review draft plan
 - Incorporate final feedback

- Public Open House Meeting
 - Provide plan for public review
 - Discuss format

- Final Review & Adoption
 - Discuss steps

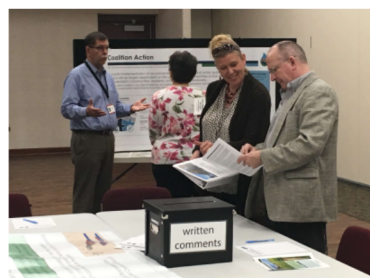


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NEXT STEPS

Open House Style Meeting

- Multiple stations
- Assistance from local stakeholders / WMA members
- “Come and go” event
- Facilitates one-on-one conversations
- Need to determine logistics
 - Suggest holding after next WMA meeting
- Assistance needed with notifications



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NEXT STEPS

Final Review and Adoption

- Present final draft at next WMA meeting
 - Make any final edits needed
- Hold open house
- Formal DNR review process
- WMA adoption process
- JEO to provide final copies



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NEXT STEPS

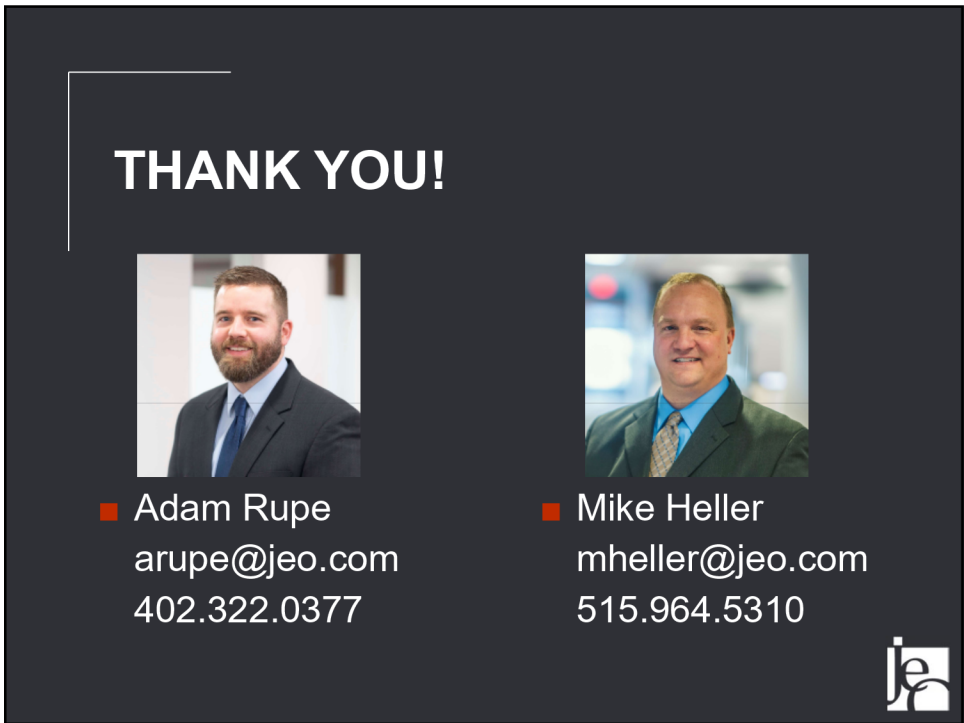
1. Continue sending draft plan chapters for review by TAT
2. Present full draft plan at next meeting
3. Begin planning for public open house
4. Complete review and adoption process
5. Project complete by end of 2021!



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THANK YOU!

- Dean Kluss
dkluss@co.wright.ia.us
515.835.0502
- Kyle Ament
kyle.ament@dnr.iowa.gov
515.725.8389
- Mike Heller
mheller@jeo.com
515.964.5310
- Adam Rupe
arupe@jeo.com
402.322.0377



Boone River Watershed Management Authority WMA
Board Meeting Minutes
December 16, 2021; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
Location: Clarion Public Library
302 N. Main St.
Clarion, IA 50525
(Zoom Meeting option also available)

Meeting Minutes

1. Call meeting to order

- a. Meeting called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Dean Kluss, Chairperson
- b. Roll call was taken by Kluss, and a quorum was present (6 of 11 members)
- c. Representative members present:
 - i. Kossuth SWCD: Luke Snyder
 - ii. Hancock SWCD: Terry Kaduce
 - iii. Wright County: Dean Kluss
 - iv. City of Goldfield: Gabe Fiscus
 - v. Humboldt SWCD: Jim Sayers
 - vi. Wright SWCD: Nate Huntley
- d. See full sign-in sheet attached

2. Minutes from May 20, 2021

- a. Minutes from May 20, 2021 approved unanimously.

3. Watershed Planning Process (Adam Rupe, JEO)

- a. General project updates
 - i. Review of timeline
- b. Review of draft watershed plan
 - i. Review purpose of plan
 - ii. Overview of watershed plan document
 1. Executive summary, chapters 1-8, appendices
 2. Appendices are not available printed for this review document, but most should be uploaded online
 - iii. Key findings of interest
 1. Agricultural production does not need to be sacrificed
 2. Goals can be achieved
 - a. **Question:** What was the area of study for nitrate reduction thesis (Weis, 2021)?
Adam: The entire Boone watershed is the area of study.
 3. Recommendations available in each chapter
- iv. Key deliverables
 1. Executive summary poster
 - a. Each member can hang it in their board room
 - b. **Comment:** Could be good to hang in the general public area of the FSA office.
 - c. **Comment:** Need to define BMP, general public may not be familiar with the acronym.

Adam: Conservation practice could be used instead.

Comment: Some people may shut their mind off to the term “conservation”.

2. Long-term implementation strategy
 - a. Has the following characteristics: voluntary, compatible with agriculture, phased, prioritized, whole farm conservation, sustainable communities, flood resiliency
 - b. Priority areas reviewed, determined based on nitrate sampling and stakeholder feedback
 - i. **Comment:** Important to prioritize these HUC 12s, but worried that we’ll focus solely on those and pass up opportunity to work on a non-prioritized area
Adam: Plan is written to help you prioritize, but there’s lots of information on the whole watershed so there should be flexibility
 - c. Cost summary available for BMPs
 - d. Phased approach means plan is on a 5-year update cycle to maintain eligibility for the 319 program
 - i. Schedule provides goals for each year of phase 1
 - ii. **Question:** What are the implications of maintaining eligibility for the 319 program?
Adam and Kyle: EPA requirements for the 319 program are used as a standard, although other funding sources may not have the same requirements.
 - iii. **Question:** Does JEO need to do the update or can it be done in-house?
Adam: Depends on how much of an update is needed.
 - iv. **Comment:** It would be nice to assess impact of any changes made on the watershed. Has JEO helped with any updates?
Adam: Yes, helped with some major plan updates. The need for JEO to be involved depends on how much is accomplished for the watershed.
3. Education plan
 - a. General approaches: identify target audiences, strategies, determine delivery methods, assess program success
 - i. Provide farmers with information on conservation economics
 - b. Overview of lessons learned from Lyon’s Creek
4. Short-term action plan (next 5 years)
 - a. Overview of what is included for each activity: description, goals addressed, timeline, primary activity lead, potential partners, technical and funding resources
5. Questions
 - a. When is feedback needed by?

Adam: January 6th. Email, phone call, scanning paper copy, edits to online document all work. Will double-check online document permissions.

- b. Was there ever a final write-up of findings from the water trail public meetings?

Adam: Yes, that will be in the appendices.

- c. **Comment by Jennifer Terry (External Affairs Manager of Des Moines Water Works):** Suggest a potential partnership with Des Moines Water Works, can help communicate with non-operator landowners in the watershed. Could also help with an upstream/downstream water trail get together (central Iowa water trails committee member). Would be happy to discuss further.

- c. Discussion of scheduling public open house meeting

- i. Recommendation by Adam to do an open house style meeting with different stations in the room. More one-on-one interaction, reduction of just one stakeholder having their voice heard.
- ii. February 2nd as primary day with February 4th as a backup day in case of inclement weather. Meeting will be held at the Clarion ISU Extension. Two open houses will be hosted on the same day, one during lunch hour (11 AM – 1 PM) and one in the evening (5 PM – 7 PM). SWCD will provide lunch, JEO will bring cookies for the evening.
 - 1. **Comment:** Would be good to have a central location to post details about the open house, like the website.
Adam: The draft plan can also be posted on the website.
 - 2. **Heidi Keuler (via chat):** USFWS Fisheries and Farmers partnership may have funding for BMPs and outreach/education.
- iii. Advertising strategy discussion
 - 1. **Comment:** Important to make sure people being invited know they're in the Boone River watershed and this meeting applies to them.
 - 2. **Question:** What is the advertising strategy?
Adam: Utilize local partners. JEO will produce materials to distribute. Social media is good. Use the newsletter. Will produce a small flyer for sending to individual landowners as needed.

4. Next Steps (Adam Rupe, JEO)

- a. Final feedback from WMA requested by Jan 6th
- b. Open house for public (Feb 2nd)
- c. DNR review process
 - i. Concurrent with incorporating feedback from the public
- d. WMA adoption process
- e. JEO to provide final copies
- f. WMA members present plans to local boards
 - i. **Question:** Is this our last meeting with JEO?
Adam: Met contractual requirement of number of meetings, but can come back to present final copy if the board requested

Comment: Would also be good to meet right before the open house (10-11 AM Feb 2nd)

5. Approval of payment to JEO (Task 3 and 4)

- a. Motion to approve final payment to JEO for tasks 3 and 4 by January 31st by TC
- b. Motion passed unanimously.

6. Next Steps (Kyle Ament, DNR)

- a. Implementation team to meet and stay informed about funding opportunities
 - i. Could be new committee or executive team
 - ii. Recommend current attendees to be implementation team
 - 1. Luke Snyder (Kossuth SWCD) also expressed interest in being part of the implementation team
- b. Start thinking about easily implemented items on action plan
 - i. Education, especially signage for stream crossings on county roads
 - 1. DNR can provide \$10,000 max per county, depending on what a reasonable request is for each county the watershed crosses. No match required.
 - 2. Connecting signage to watershed can be a powerful tool
 - ii. Projects
 - 1. Work on applying for funding for implementation
 - 2. USFWS Fisheries & Farmers works on fish passage projects
 - a. Prioritization based on degree of barrier, stream order, and proximity (to Topeka Shiner locations, oxbows, critical habitat)

7. Partner Updates

- a. Some SWCDs in the process of updating 5-year plans
 - i. **Question:** Is double-dipping in funding for SWCD and WMA possible?
Kyle: Depends on the source/how the project is designed. Try to make funding sources work together
 - ii. Role of WMA is to support larger scale projects, SWCD focus on landowners

8. Next Meeting

- a. Date: 10 AM February 2nd (Prior to open house)
 - i. Discussion to include last-minute preparation for the open house and any quick business
- b. Reminder to get comments to Adam by January 6th
- c. Kyle will keep updated on funding opportunities and core group may meet as a rapid response

9. Adjourn

- a. Motion to adjourn by Nate Huntley, seconded by TC Loving
- b. Meeting adjourned at 3:44 p.m.



Boone River WMA
Watershed Planning Project
WMA Meeting

Clarion Public Library – 302 N Main St., Clarion, IA – Thursday, December 16, 2021; 2:00 p.m.



Please place a check next to your name, if present. | If any information is incorrect, or needs updated, please cross out and provide

NAME	OCCUPATION or Title	ORGANIZATION / INTEREST Represented	PHONE	EMAIL
JIM SAYERS	Commissioner	Humboldt SWCD	515 890 1601	fsantoun2356@gmail.com
Kyle Amendt	DNK			
Jennifer Fleming		DNK		terry@dnkww.com
NATE HUNTER	SWCD		515 368 0557	
Karen Wille	TNC	TNC	480-678-2352	Kwille@TNC.org
DEAN KLUSS	WRIGHT SUPERVISOR	"	(515) 835-0502	dkluss@cdi.wright-ia.us
TC LOVING	Humboldt SWCD		515 890 8437	loving@twocandies.com
TERY KADUCE	MARCOCK SWCD			

Please Sign In!



Boone River WMA
Watershed Planning Project
WMA Meeting

Clarion Public Library – 302 N Main St., Clarion, IA – Thursday, December 16, 2021; 2:00 p.m.



Please place a check next to your name, if present. | If any information is incorrect, or needs updated, please cross out and provide

NAME	OCCUPATION or Title	ORGANIZATION / INTEREST Represented	PHONE	EMAIL
Luke Snyder (Online Attendee)		Kossuth SWCD		
Heidi Keuler (Online Attendee)		USFWS - Fisheries Program, Fishers & Farmers Partnership Coordinator		
Darrick Weissenfluh (Online Attendee)		USFWS		
Amelia Long (Online Attendee)		JEO		
Gabe Fiscus (Online Attendee)		City of Goldfield		

Please Sign In!

Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)

Water Trail Meeting Minutes

Land Manager Meeting

February 9, 2021; 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. (Held Virtually via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

a. Meeting Purpose

1) To determine interest, desires, and concerns with possible extension of water trails within the Boone River Watershed

- i. No new water trail is being proposed at this time; this meeting is to gather interest only

b. Project Team

1) JEO Consulting Group

- i. Mike Heller, Project Manager
- ii. Adam Rupe, Lead Planner
- iii. Alyssa Tenorio, Community Engagement

2) Iowa Department of Natural Resources

- i. Kyle Ament, Watershed Basin Coordinator
- ii. John Wenck, Water Trail Coordinator

3) Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)

- i. Dean Kluss, Chairperson (not present at meeting)
 - a. Represented by Karen Wilke

c. See attached “Full Attendance List”

2. Project Background and Relation to WMA/Watershed (Adam Rupe, JEO)

a. Boone River WMA est. 2019

- 1) Members: cities, counties, SWCDs
- 2) No regulatory authority

b. Resources reviewed:

- 1) Water Quality (Nutrients, Sediments/Erosion, *E. coli* bacteria)
- 2) Education
- 3) Wildlife Habitat
- 4) Recreation
- 5) Flood Resiliency

c. Plan to identify voluntary BMPs and projects

d. Plan’s schedule presented: February 2020 (Start) – Fall 2021 (Current estimated completion)

3. What is A Water Trail? (Mike Heller, JEO)

a. Definition

- 1) Gives overview of recreational amenity map
- 2) Developed to identify issues and provide improvement opportunities on river
- 3) Highlight area’s history, culture, and wildlife

b. Benefits

- 1) Recreational opportunities

- 2) Economic development & quality of life development
- 3) Professional connections built along waterways
- 4) Local citizens involved in improving waterways
- c. Requirements
 - 1) Written agreement between DNR, water trail sponsor, and land managers
 - 2) Safety and hazard information for public access
 - 3) Annual land manager meeting to check progress/address concerns
 - i. Land managers get to be heavily involved in the process
 - 4) Signage installed according to DNR and DOT guidelines

4. Water Trail Signage (John Wenck, DNR)

- a. There has been an increase of water trail use/discovery during COVID
- b. Overview of Signage System: Access Signage, Road Signage, Maps/Brochures
 - 1) Communicates river access points and user location along river
 - 2) Identifies hazards
- c. Access Improvements
 - 1) Accesses angled downstream: “work with the river”
- d. Access Types
 - 1) Gateway access is preferred
 - i. Most predictable experience
 - a. Toilets provided
 - ii. Lots of uses, less erosion
 - a. Canoes, kayaks, tubes
 - b. Motorized boats
 - c. Fishing
 - iii. Attractive to all users, “universal design”
 - 2) Recreational access is most common
 - i. Less predictable experience
 - ii. Varied settings, more rural
 - iii. Designed for intermediate skill set
 - iv. More cost-effective
- e. Question from Eric Rector (Wright County): What is depth of river at access points? It might be a limiting factor (especially in Wright County – not floatable some years).
 - 1) John Wenck (DNR): Rivers are dynamic, so the depth varies.
- f. Question from chat box repeated by Adam Rupe (JEO): Is there a rule of thumb for how deep the river needs to be for recreational use?
 - 1) John Wenck (DNR): You need about 3-4 inches for a kayak and more for a canoe. Typically, looking at river flow is more important for developing access points than looking at depth.
- g. Comment from Eric Rector (Wright County): The river is usually about 12 inches deep during the year but during spring and fall it is usually not as floatable. We need to make sure public users are being safe and understand when a water trail should be used. It would be nice to let public know how fast a float could be down the river.

- 1) John Wenck (DNR): The Boone River does not have that low of a flow compared to other rivers.
- 2) Eric Rector (Wright County): The river has mostly a low rather than high flow.
- h. Comment from Karen Wilke (TNC/WMA): People come from all over to use the current Boone River Water Trail. People will use the expanded trail if they are given the opportunity.
- i. Comment from Mike Heller (JEO): The team is hosting additional water trail meetings that will allow us to gather more input from other attendees and users about access points.
- j. The Boone River is a Protected Water Area (PWA), so some funding was given to support the WMA watershed plan. The idea for expanding the water trail grew from that funding.
 - 1) Comment from Eric Rector (Wright County): Showing people access to the Boone River – like adding a motorized ramp/slide to the river – will give a wrong impression and people will attempt to use big boats that the river will not support.
 - 2) Comment from John Wenck (DNR): The Des Moines River regional plan is putting in river connections for getting TO the river and not necessarily getting ONTO the river.
- k. Video shown of community member catching fish at handicap accessible river access point
 - 1) Comment from Mike Heller (JEO): This shows the impact access points have on the community other than just kayaking and canoeing.

5. Overview of Existing Water Trail (John Wenck, DNR)

- a. Designated in 2009 – was used as a “water trail” before that
- b. Brian Stroner (City of Webster Environmental & Safety Coordinator) partnered with Iowa DNR on access improvements
 - 1) Comment from Brian Stroner (Webster City): This project has provided nothing but positive impacts. Webster City and DNR worked together. Lives have been saved because of the improvements at access sites and partnering between Webster City and DNR. Extending to the north is important because there are more access points in Wright County and community members want to access the river farther upstream.
- c. Extension Map Presented
 - 1) Possible Extension: North of Webster City and all of Wright County to the Hancock County line
 - 2) Question from Karen Wilke (TNC/WMA): Who can be a host and what are the requirements for being a host?
 - i. John Wenck (DNR): A host is also called a sponsor. Typically, the sponsor is the County Conservation Board (CCB), but it can also be a city. Sponsors are selected by applications. Sponsors can apply for planning the water trail, and applications are scored by a scoring committee,

similar to grants. We (DNR) select as many sponsors as the funding will cover.

3) Question from Karen Wilke (TNC/WMA): What is the funding money used for? Is it for planning or for implementation?

- i. John Wenck (DNR): We put out an RFP for a planner. Funds are designated to various parts of the project. But long-term goals are selected that funding will go towards. For example, "Water Trail Enhancement" is a goal that funding will go to. We are hoping for more funding in the future as it is low currently.

6. Overview of Extension Study Area (Mike Heller, JEO)

- a. Interactive, online GIS map of possible Extension Study Area shown
- b. See attached "**ArcGIS Web AppBuilder: Boone River Water Trail, Land Manager Comments**"

7. Other Questions/Comments

- a. Question from Eric Rector (Wright County): Who cleans out the log jams from the water trail?
 - 1) John Wenck (DNR): Log jams are a concern. Beaver Creek hires the Iowa Conservation Core to come clean it out a few times a year. The DNR is divided on this because logs jams can be viewed as a nuisance or as a positive to anglers. There is no established policy.
 - 2) Eric Rector (Wright County): Log jams become an issue with crops and farming. Landowners can point to the Conservation Board to blame for log jams harming their crops.
 - 3) John Wenck (DNR): Landowners are not responsible or are not required to remove downed trees/log jams that are blocking the river. However, the riverbed is their property on non-meandered rivers. Therefore, getting their permission to remove log jams is important. Just need to respect private property.
 - 4) Eric Rector (Wright County): The public has certain expectations for removal of logs/debris. If our name is put on a water trail, the public will continue having certain expectations for cleanup.
 - 5) Brian Stroner (Webster City): Partnership between city and DNR has been beneficial in removing select debris. It is rare for these things to come up, so there is usually no preparation in the budget for these occurrences. There is no dedicated budget for cleanup since it is usually so minimal year to year.
 - 6) Eric Rector (Wright County): It is important to consider the perception of the landowners and public when it comes to "who" is responsible for log jams, etc.

8. Next Steps & Contacts

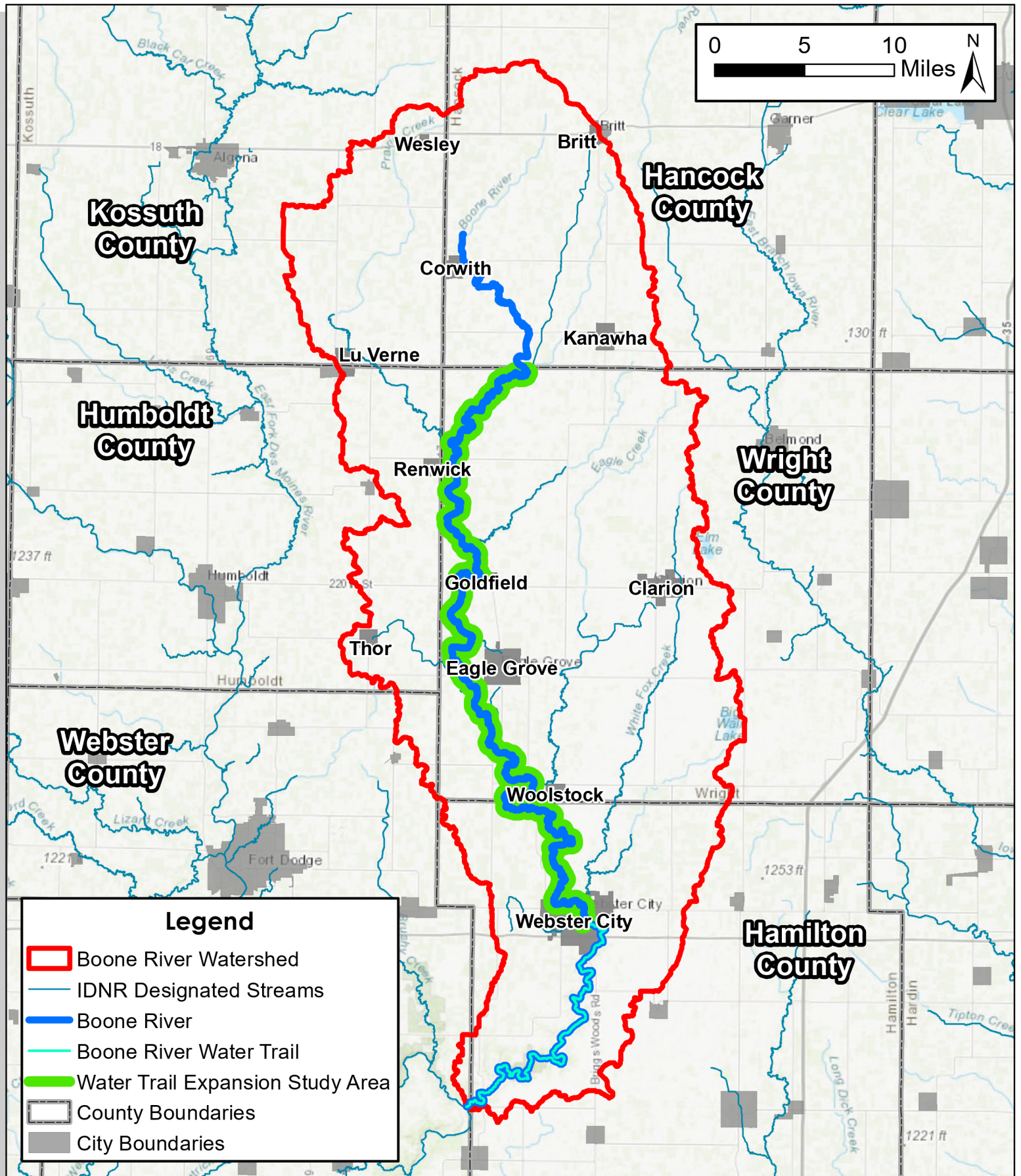
- a. Public Survey for expanding water trail
 - 1) Closes on March 3rd

Full Attendance List

1. Adam Rupe, JEO Environmental Planner
2. Alyssa Tenorio, JEO Community Engagement Specialist
3. Breanne Leshner, Webster City Recreation & Public Grounds Asst. Director
4. Brian Lammers, Hamilton Conservation Director
5. Brian Stroner, Webster City Environmental/GIS/Safety Coordinator
6. Eric Rector, Wright Conservation Board Director
7. Jeremiah Feltz, Wright Conservation Board Member
8. John Wenck, Iowa DNR Water Trails Coordinator
9. Karen Wilke, The Nature Conservancy
10. Kyle Ament, Iowa DNR
11. Larry Flaws, Webster City Recreation & Public Grounds Director
12. Mike Heller, JEO Project Manager

ArcGIS Web AppBuilder: Boone River Water Trail, Land Manager Comments

OBJECTID	GlobalID	CreationDate	Comments	x	y
4	d526172f-168b-4f4b-9b2b-c549301b82d5	2/9/2021 19:56	Dam modified and access added, safety concerns. Working with Enviro Cleanup to address dam	-93.8145	42.47411
5	7c1b8ec6-32e9-43bc-aeba-e24bf7d5002a	2/9/2021 20:00	No river access available, true wildlife area	-93.8928	42.56428
6	e1cec2b1-fa89-42e7-a4fb-42a8576ef240	2/9/2021 20:01	Discussed previous access, but safety concerns with proximity to bridge	-93.8673	42.57291
7	4b01b9b7-17c5-4ee1-b10e-a23ec3c48e1f	2/9/2021 20:02	Oxbow restoration area	-93.8513	42.5736
8	2da5fe67-7832-4790-b522-91fb4e8dc4d2	2/9/2021 20:03	On east side of river 60-ft drop down, not user friendly for kayaks/canoes	-93.8885	42.58735
9	4683bb94-1154-4946-b960-df4aea5b09d9	2/9/2021 20:04	Parking area - long way to gain access	-93.906	42.58696
10	be708062-ee8e-486a-be5d-b349337e664a	2/9/2021 20:06	Parking available, access possible in this area, when water is low means 15-20 ft drop; most diverse mussle bed in Iowa	-93.91	42.60105
11	65ac9d14-06b4-4a3f-9780-7604c170b8eb	2/9/2021 20:10	Bridge captures sediments during high water events, Eric not opposed to shaving down for better access, banks are extremely deep with remains of old dam/concrete dump site	-93.9278	42.62949
12	cbd9b95a-f90c-486c-8ee0-77b46cc48a7f	2/9/2021 20:13	Easier place to put access - wide and flat land in area (south side of 270th)	-93.9479	42.66256
13	f0f4fb08-336a-44f1-a3eb-5e54dd5014c6	2/9/2021 20:16	Conservation owner, possible issue of bank height	-93.9363	42.69032
14	3b620978-0abb-4703-999c-f3ef43d883bf	2/9/2021 20:20	Karen: Private land owner with oxbow restoration, possible partnership to create access	-93.9531	42.71573
15	60cd1691-7be9-4aa5-a6fc-a0996360e631	2/9/2021 20:21	Iowa DOT owns north of road and both sides of river, bridge concerns	-93.9503	42.73208
16	43e95edf-aeafa-405f-a38d-0c62b495e63d	2/9/2021 20:26	Wright owns south of road, but not all the way to the river; bank is sloped and would be good use of land	-93.9338	42.76076
17	ca977f06-68e0-48dc-9785-5a97f14b01d1	2/9/2021 20:27	Possible access, wildlife stamp grant; high water issues/flooding	-93.9524	42.79692
18	71d77861-31f4-4419-bed5-848ecf6bd1f5	2/9/2021 20:28	Fishing parking	-93.9557	42.79727
19	d7861c65-3518-4686-8f75-7802dc0333f0	2/9/2021 20:29	State-owned, managed by Wright County; farm dump area	-93.946	42.86613
21	46f94c07-06d8-4ebe-9a8b-8b6d0ce22eb6	2/9/2021 20:31	County owns ROW easement, bridge is out but the road still there	-93.9463	42.85824
22	8073bcf6-a126-4666-9e4b-af1b1389a131	2/9/2021 20:32	State-owned (Heritage Foundation); Prairie Creek always has high water	-93.9699	42.84943
23	0f4b9bca-67ae-4919-b7b7-1dedc2194839	2/9/2021 20:33	County previously tried to create access in this area	-93.9573	42.834
24	b688a8dc-8f0c-461b-9ae3-4d67df756136	2/9/2021 20:34	City-owned land; further upstream more problems with barbed wire/electrical fences; not a lot of river users because the water flow varies	-93.8073	42.48341



Created By: DJV
 Date: 4/22/2020
 Software: ArcGIS 10.7.1

Water Trail Expansion Study Area

Boone River Watershed



This map was prepared using information from record drawings supplied by JEO and/or other applicable city, county, federal, or public or private entities. JEO does not guarantee the accuracy of this map or the information used to prepare this map. This is not a scaled plot.

Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)

Water Trail Meeting Minutes

Landowner Meeting

February 9, 2021; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Held Virtually via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

a. Meeting Purpose

1) To determine interest, desires, and concerns with possible extension of water trails within the Boone watershed

- i. No new water trail is being proposed at this time; this meeting is to gather interest only

b. Project Team

1) JEO Consulting Group

- i. Mike Heller, Project Manager
- ii. Adam Rupe, Lead Planner
- iii. Alyssa Tenorio, Community Engagement

2) Iowa Department of Natural Resources

- i. Kyle Ament, Watershed Basin Coordinator (not present at meeting)
- ii. John Wenck, Water Trail Coordinator

3) Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)

- i. Dean Kluss, Chairperson

c. See attached “Full Attendance List”

2. Project Background and Relation to WMA/Watershed (Adam Rupe, JEO)

a. Boone River WMA est. 2019

- 1) Members: cities, counties, SWCDs
- 2) No regulatory authority

b. Resources reviewed:

- 1) Water Quality (Nutrients, Sediments/Erosion, *E. coli* bacteria)
- 2) Education
- 3) Wildlife Habitat
- 4) Recreation
- 5) Flood Resiliency

c. Plan to identify voluntary BMPs and projects

d. Plan’s schedule presented: February 2020 (Start) – Fall 2021 (Current estimated completion)

3. What is A Water Trail? (Mike Heller, JEO)

a. Definition

- 1) Gives overview of recreational amenity map
- 2) Developed to identify issues and provide improvement opportunities on river
- 3) Highlight area’s history, culture, and wildlife

b. Benefits

- 1) Recreational opportunities
- 2) Economic development & quality of life development

- 3) Professional connections built along waterways
- 4) Local citizens involved in improving waterways
- c. Requirements
 - 1) Written agreement between DNR, water trail sponsor, and land managers
 - 2) Safety and hazard information for public access
 - 3) Annual land manager meeting to check progress/address concerns
 - i. Land managers get to be heavily involved in the process
 - 4) Signage installed according to DNR and DOT guidelines

4. Water Trail Signage (John Wenck, DNR)

- a. There has been an increase of water trail use/discovery during COVID
- b. Overview of Signage System: Access Signage, Road Signage, Maps/Brochures
 - 1) Communicates river access points and user location along river
 - 2) Identifies hazards
- c. Access Improvements
 - 1) Accesses angled downstream, “work with the river”
- d. Access Types
 - 1) Gateway access is preferred
 - i. Most predictable experience
 - a. Toilets provided
 - ii. Lots of uses, less erosion
 - a. Canoes, kayaks, tubes
 - b. Motorized boats
 - c. Fishing
 - iii. Attractive to all users, “universal design”
 - 2) Recreational access is most common
 - i. Less predictable experience
 - ii. Varied settings, more rural
 - iii. Designed for intermediate skill set
 - iv. More cost-effective
- e. Question from Dean Kluss (WMA): Does the DNR assist in funding these access improvements and development?
 - 1) John Wenck (DNR): Yes. We have 2 annual applications. One is for planning that leads to water trail designation. For this project, we are looking to see if there is interest, but whoever the potential sponsor is, they would apply for planning through the application process. If the sponsor gets selected for the planning process, then they can develop short-term or long-term projects and then the sponsor can apply to enhancing grants to fund those projects.
- f. Question from Dean Kluss (WMA): Are these accesses ever put on private property or always on public lands?
 - 1) John Wenck (DNR): Sometimes they are on private property if the DNR works to get an easement. Most of the time they are on public land. The DNR has a lot of easements, especially on Lizard Creek. It’s a good deal to get easements.

- g. Question from Dan Ryherd (Landowner): Is there any consideration for trash cans at accesses?
- 1) John Wenck (DNR): It depends on the planning process because issues of maintenance come up. The local land manager must be able to handle it. I think it would be great to have those trash cans, personally. This will come-up as discussion during the planning period.
- h. Question from Dennis Vandewater (Landowner): Could there potentially be any use restrictions to adjoining landowners? For example, a portion of the present use on my adjoining property is for personal recreation including picnic table, fire pit, and target gun range. I would not wish to have these uses restricted in the future.
- 1) John Wenck (DNR): Each easement is its own entity, so it is an agreement. We do not want to create (at the DNR) restrictions on eminent domain with the creation of this water trail. We do not want to make these restrictions and we also cannot. It is important to be sensitive to the concerns of landowners and local residents. Preferences to landowners is typically to not have access points on their lands or near their lands. We are careful of making sure not to step on toes and listen well to residents in the area.
 - 2) Mike Heller (JEO): The water trail does not create or impose any additional restrictions on your private property. It is your property, so you can do what you want on it.
 - 3) Dean Kluss (WMA): Trespassing on private property that adjoins the water trail is still trespassing. If there is an easement, it is allowed.
 - 4) Mike Heller (JEO): Interpretive signs along the water trail explain where people can go and what is private property. We did not include them in this presentation for the sake of time.
 - 5) John Wenck (DNR): We at the DNR want to make sure there are good relations between the people who recreate and the private landowners. We want to help solve any problems that are associated with the creation of the water trail. We can purchase “no trespassing” signs if landowners want them. Hotspots for trespassing tend to be near college towns.
 - 6) Mike Heller (JEO): One of the aspects of the water trail is having the designated water trail plan and allowing landowners a spot at the table at the annual water trail meeting to discuss concerns.
 - 7) John Wenck (DNR): At some of the hotspot areas, we have worked with law enforcement to help solve problems like underage drinking. Without the water trail, we at the DNR would not be able to help solve any of these problems.
- i. Question from Dan Ryherd (Landowner): In addition to the interpretive signs will you be using a smartphone app (like Otocast)?
- 1) John Wenck (DNR): I wish we had an app, but we (DNR) do not yet. But standby because we are working on getting an app created. We do have an interactive map on our website at www.iowadnr.gov/paddlingmap that can be easily accessed.
- j. Video shown of community members catching fish from a handicap accessible river access point

1) Comment from Mike Heller (JEO): This shows the impact access points have on the community other than just kayaking and canoeing.

5. Overview of Existing Water Trail (John Wenck, DNR)

- a. Designated in 2009 – was used as a “water trail” before that
 - 1) People come from across and all-over the state to recreate on this river
- b. Brian Stroner (City of Webster Environmental & Safety Coordinator) partnered with Iowa DNR on access improvements
- c. Extension Map Presented
 - 1) Possible Extension: North of Webster City and all of Wright County to the Hancock County line

6. Overview of Extension Study Area (Mike Heller, JEO)

- a. Interactive, online GIS map of possible Extension Study Area shown
 - 1) Questions to consider for discussion:
 - i. Which part of the river do you use the most, or what sections would you like to use more?
 - ii. Are there specific amenities or improvements that would increase use of the specific sections?
 - iii. Are there specific safety and access improvements – including signage – you’d like to see along the river?
 - iv. Should a formal water trail plan be completed for the existing designated Boone River Water Trail?
 - v. Should the water trail be extended?
- b. See attached **“ArcGIS Web AppBuilder: Boone River Water Trail, Landowner Comments”**

7. Other Questions/Comments

- a. Question from William Kuecker (Landowner): Does the water trail have the potential to affect private liability insurance with increased traffic?
 - 1) Alyssa Tenorio (JEO): Our team will investigate this question and get back to you.
- b. Question from Dan Ryherd (Landowner): Why is White Fox Creek highlighted?
 - 1) Mike Heller (JEO): We had it highlighted earlier today during the land manager meeting to see if there was any potential interest to create a water trail along the White Fox Creek. It was an idea that got brought up and we wanted to include it in discussion.
 - 2) Dan Ryherd (Landowner): No, it is barely a creek because it is so shallow.
- c. Question from Gary Mentz (Landowner): Could you comment on the water quality south of 270th Street on Buchanan Ave? I am an absentee landowner and live in Minneapolis, Minnesota, so I am just curious about the land in that area. I own property south of 270th along the river.
 - 1) Karen Wilke (TNC): You can find annual water quality data for the entire Boone River Watershed here: <https://www.acwa-rrws.org/water-monitoring/annual->

[data/](#) - and also real-time nitrate sensor (currently out for the winter) at Goldfield and Webster City on the Boone River can be found here:

<https://iwqis.iowawis.org/app/?iwqis=/nitrate-con>

- 2) Adam Rupe (JEO): I think the best pieces of data are from Karen. I am not sure how close they sample to your location, but I would need to look at the first link Karen sent.
 - 3) Karen Wilke (TNC): I think they must sample close to that property looking at the map from the link I sent, but it is a bit difficult to read.
 - 4) Adam Rupe (JEO): I think generally for recreation purposes the water quality is not bad, but sometimes the nutrient concentrations like nitrogen and phosphorus can get high and harm aquatic life and create some algae blooms/green slimy water in certain areas. We are looking into that for the watershed plan overall.
- d. Comment from Alyssa Tenorio (JEO): We are getting into the topic of low flow. John, we talked about it earlier today at our land manager meeting, but how does that tie into creating a successful water trail? Is it worth having a water trail if the flow is low and not as suitable for paddlers and kayakers?
- 1) John Wenck (DNR): It is one of those factors that you must weigh. A lot of our water bodies in Iowa only have adequate water in spring and then through the summer. Sometimes it can be hit or miss for water depth, and rainfall events can play a factor in if a water trail is floatable. My experience with the Boone is that it can be paddled most of the time. White Fox Creek is a bit of a challenge because it is so narrow and shallow – you must be looking out for fallen trees and log jams. Some people like those experiences, but most people do not.
- e. Comment from Dean Kluss (WMA): The past couple years we have had low flows, but we are in a drought situation. This is an unusual situation of having lower flows, so do not let this completely impact decisions for the water trail. I think you would potentially see a positive impact for landowners by implementing this trail because people seriously care for the recreational opportunities along the river. I am encouraged by it, personally.
- f. Question from Mike Heller (JEO): Should a formal water trail plan be completed for the existing Boone River north through Wright County?
- 1) Boone Morgan (Landowner): There is some concern because this will be going right through my backyard. I am an outdoorsman, and I am respectful of others being outdoorsmen, but there are some bad apples that can ruin it for everyone. So increased traffic concerns me a little. Are there opportunities for more fish to be introduced into the river for other recreational activities like fishing?
 - 2) Mike Heller (JEO): When we look at the larger picture of this project with the Boone River Watershed Management Plan, we know that the implementation of this plan will have a positive impact on the wildlife in the river. It will also help in improving water quality for more species. Around the access areas that are being created, there will be another increase for aquatic habitat because of the way they are being formed to help prevent erosion in the river.

3) John Wenck (DNR): I like to think about the water trail as a neighborhood association – everyone working together for the greater good of the whole. Hopefully, a lot of good comes out of it. “Keep it clean. Keep it fun for everyone” is a motto we have for the DNR. Most people are out there trying their best and making it enjoyable for everyone, but there are the bad folks who do not care as much and can ruin it for others. If the expansion of the water trail is carried out, I would encourage landowners to be on the steering committee during the planning process and get involved with the water trail to talk about the bad apples they have been seeing on the river (if any).

8. Next Steps & Contacts

- a. Public survey for expanding water trail
 - 1) Closes on March 3rd
- b. Let Alyssa Tenorio (JEO) know if you want signs from the DNR for your property.

Full Attendance List

1. Adam Rupe, JEO Environmental Planner
2. Alyssa Tenorio, JEO Community Engagement Specialist
3. Boone Morgan, Landowner
4. Dan Ryherd, Landowner
5. Dean Kluss, Boone River WMA Chairperson
6. Dennis Vandewater, Landowner
7. Eric Rector, Wright Conservation Board Director
8. Gary Mentz, Landowner
9. Greg Soenen, Landowner
10. John Wenck, Iowa DNR Water Trails Coordinator
11. Karen Wilke, The Nature Conservancy
12. Kyle Swon, Landowner
13. Mike Heller, JEO Project Manager
14. Sharon Klassen, Landowner
15. William Kuecker, Landowner

ArcGIS Web AppBuilder: Boone River Water Trail, Landowner Comments

OBJECTID	GlobalID	Comments	x	y
25	b0f80cfa-692e-455e-8164-a12a8fe4851f	Signage washed out with previous floods; not easy to portage round the dam; shallow area where White Fox enters, portion of trail is shallow; lots of fisherman in that area	-93.8147	42.47398
26	d39a2020-8818-4cf3-ba9f-d53dd84b6011	Access right off county road, needs to be improved, used by other people too; puts in at this access, gets out before dam at Webster City (2 hours on fast paddling day)	-93.8311	42.52934
27	28c66ee7-ea92-4788-9135-13284a790c11	Access point for river uses	-93.8631	42.55112
28	4dc7a1a6-f9ef-4551-b721-76994ba58463	Dean knows owner (Claude), asks to use private access point	-93.8967	42.55788
31	5bbe709f-a001-4789-807c-17d6870f9493	Shallow, open water; hard to access river from area	-93.9102	42.60059
32	9a3fdf42-20cc-4185-915a-6b4fc0673523	William Kuecker property; issues with timber cut down, camping, littering, vehicle vandalizing	-93.9566	42.67579
33	396963f2-b47e-4401-8673-f17e5f2e84a5	Furthest north Dean goes, gets too narrow the further north you go	-93.926	42.737
35	35818862-e49a-457d-81f2-a52b07f491bd	Dan Ryherd - too low, not suitable for river water trail	-93.8088	42.47938

BOONE RIVER WATER TRAIL EXTENSION

Landowner Listening Session

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021
6:00 TO 8:00 PM | ZOOM MEETING





JEO CONSULTING GROUP

1615 SW Main St., Suite 205
Ankeny, IA 50023

Join us to learn more about the proposed Boone River Water Trail extension, as well as provide input to identify and prioritize known issues within the area.

To register for the meeting and complete the survey, visit <http://iowawatertrails.org/>.

Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)

Water Trail Meeting Minutes

River Users/Public Meeting

February 10, 2021; 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. (Held Virtually via Zoom)

Meeting Minutes

1. Welcome and Introductions

a. Meeting Purpose

1) To determine interest, desires, and concerns with possible extension of water trails within the Boone River Watershed

- i. No new water trail is being proposed at this time; this meeting is to gather interest only

b. Project Team

1) JEO Consulting Group

- i. Mike Heller, Project Manager
- ii. Adam Rupe, Lead Planner
- iii. Alyssa Tenorio, Community Engagement

2) Iowa Department of Natural Resources

- i. Kyle Ament, Watershed Basin Coordinator (not present at meeting)
- ii. John Wenck, Water Trail Coordinator

3) Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA)

- i. Dean Kluss, Chairperson (not present at meeting)

c. See attached “Full Attendance List”

2. Project Background and Relation to WMA/Watershed (Adam Rupe, JEO)

a. Boone River WMA est. 2019

- 1) Members: cities, counties, SWCDs
- 2) No regulatory authority

b. Resources reviewed:

- 1) Water Quality (Nutrients, Sediments/Erosion, *E. coli* bacteria)
- 2) Education
- 3) Wildlife Habitat
- 4) Recreation
- 5) Flood Resiliency

c. Plan to identify voluntary BMPs and projects

d. Plan’s schedule presented: February 2020 (Start) – Fall 2021 (Current estimated completion)

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a. Definition

- 1) Gives overview of recreational amenity map
- 2) Developed to identify issues and provide improvement opportunities on river
- 3) Highlight area’s history, culture, and wildlife

b. Benefits

- 1) Recreational opportunities
- 2) Economic development & quality of life development

- 3) Professional connections built along waterways
- 4) Local citizens involved in improving waterways
- c. Requirements
 - 1) Written agreement between DNR, water trail sponsor, and land managers
 - 2) Safety and hazard information for public access
 - 3) Annual land manager meeting to check progress/address concerns
 - i. Land managers get to be heavily involved in the process
 - 4) Signage installed according to DNR and DOT guidelines

4. Water Trail Signage (John Wenck, DNR)

- a. There has been an increase of water trail use/discovery during COVID
- b. Overview of Signage System: Access Signage, Road Signage, Maps/Brochures
 - 1) Communicates river access points and user location along river
 - 2) Identifies hazards
 - 3) Larger river width = larger signage
- c. Access Improvements
 - 1) Accesses angled downstream, “work with the river”
- d. Access Types
 - 1) Gateway access is preferred
 - i. Most predictable experience
 - a. Toilets provided
 - ii. Lots of uses, less erosion
 - a. Canoes, kayaks, tubes
 - b. Motorized boats
 - c. Fishing
 - iii. Attractive to all users, “universal design”
 - 2) Recreational access is most common
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 - iv. More cost-effective
- e. Video shown of community members catching fish at handicap accessible river access

5. Overview of Existing Water Trail (John Wenck, DNR)

- a. Designated in 2009 – was used as a “water trail” before that
 - 1) People come from across and all-over the state to recreate on this river
- b. Brian Stroner (City of Webster Environmental & Safety Coordinator) partnered with Iowa DNR on access improvements
- c. Extension Map Presented
 - 1) Possible Extension: North of Webster City and all of Wright County to the Hancock County line

6. Overview of Extension Study Area (Mike Heller, JEO)

- a. Interactive, online GIS map of possible Extension Study Area shown
 - 1) Questions to consider for discussion:
 - i. Which part of the river do you use the most, or what sections would you like to use more?
 - ii. Are there specific amenities or improvements that would increase use of the specific sections?
 - iii. Are there specific safety and access improvements – including signage – you’d like to see along the river?
 - iv. Should a formal water trail plan be completed for the existing designated Boone River Water Trail?
 - v. Should the water trail be extended?
- b. See attached **“ArcGIS Web AppBuilder: Boone River Water Trail, River Users/Public Comments”**

7. Other Questions/Comments

- a. Question from Kent Maahs (River User): Are portages being considered as well?
 - 1) Mike Heller (JEO): I think right now we are in the interest gathering stage and if this project moves forward as an actual water trail, then yes portages will be considered when developing the water trail. A water trail plan is about identifying hazards and creating safe accesses.
 - 2) John Wenck (DNR): It actually is a requirement for designation to mitigate dams in some way. Minimum mitigation would be signs and a portage. Local residents can still apply for a grant from the Iowa DNR dam mitigation program whether it is a water trail or not, it is still eligible. If you are interested in getting a portage around a dam, even if it is not a water trail, then talk to Brian Lammers or the City of Webster City (talk to the city first). That grant can fund a portage.
- b. Comment from Chad Chapman (River User) in chat box repeated by Alyssa Tenorio (JEO): We usually paddle from Webster City south. However, on one occasion I have paddled once from Hwy 17 to Webster City. It went fine. It is a bit of a long run and took quite a while. I would love to see additional accesses in that section. The Boone River is great, but with it having a stronger than normal grade from upriver down, I really must pay attention to the water levels on the USGS site.
- c. Comment from Brett Downs (River User): There is lots of fishing activity at that specific dam you want to mitigate (the dam north of Webster City).
- d. Comment from Brett Downs (River User): If this trail would happen, would there be improvements to existing access' or trying to add new access? And who currently maintains these accesses? And who will in the future?
 - 1) Mike Heller (JEO): It largely depends on location of the accesses when determining who maintains them. If the access is on the golf course property, then they would be responsible for the maintenance.
 - 2) John Wenck (DNR): The plan will help determine who is responsible for what. The DNR has an annual enhancement grant that is offered for water trail

projects. Right now, it is an 80/20, with a 20% match by the DNR. We are hoping that more funding is provided to the DNR.

- e. Question from Sharon Klassen (Landowner): These accesses would also be helpful for winter use, too, right?
 - 1) Mike Heller (JEO): Definitely. They are multi-seasonal accesses.

8. Next Steps & Contacts

- a. Public Survey for expanding water trail – encouraged to share with friends who use the Boone River.
 - 1) Closes on March 3rd
- b. Send comments/questions/feedback to Adam Rupe or Mike Heller at JEO
- c. Comment from John Wenck (DNR): I am assuming that a lot of folks know that there is an interactive map specifically for paddling. Go to www.iowadnr.gov/paddlingmap
 - 1) John Wenck (DNR): If there are any hazards that you see as a river user, let me know and I will update the map accordingly.

Full Attendance List

1. Adam Rupe, JEO Environmental Planner
2. Andrea Harris, JEO Engineer
3. Ann Seda, River User
4. Alyssa Tenorio, JEO Community Engagement Specialist
5. Brett Downs, River User
6. Chad Chapman, River User
7. David Holm, River User
8. Greg Soenen, Landowner
9. Jeff White, River User
10. John Wenck, Iowa DNR Water Trails Coordinator
11. Jon D., River User
12. Karen Wilke, The Nature Conservancy
13. Ken Noremk, River User
14. Ken Umthun, River User
15. Kent Maahs, River User
16. Mike Heller, JEO Project Manager
17. Randy Walker, River User
18. Scot Ely, Landowner
19. Sharon Klassen, Landowner
20. Vaughn Wassink, River User

ArcGIS Web AppBuilder: Boone River Water Trail, River Users/Public Comments

OBJECTID	GlobalID	Comments	x	y
37	ac14b13e-53b9-4a42-a37d-11999eef4ea4	Sudden dam, can't see it through the bend, fast water, can't really get around it; mitigation and signage for it would be great; gorgeous stretch of river, peddle/paddle through Webster City, add bike trail (no shuttling together); Jeff White encourages water trail; lots of fishing activity at this dam	-93.8146	42.47397
39	e86df06c-0da6-479a-a234-b9321d2b9a31	Decent access but needs work	-93.9279	42.62878
40	8484f6b0-953b-492d-9368-6018ee5a0558	Access needs work; water levels are iffy along the Boone; water trail going to at least to Goldfield; Chad Chapman - Boone is favorite because it's narrow, more scenic, routes are simple with addition to gravel road south of Webster City; would like to see extension north of Webster City because of closeness to Clarion, economic impact to Eagle Grove, would promote region/Des Moines River Valley	-93.9112	42.60099
42	27c1d5ab-4922-4dde-b7e4-e33673322601	Golf course might be interested in access; Ken Umthun - former golf course board member, restaurant would be interested in; use area between river and driveway to park for access, hard to access river from this area (open April through October)	-93.9481	42.66253
43	d5d5fbba-dc54-4e4f-a6ff-da444df87d39	Swift and deep moving area of the river, might be worth checking access for location next to golf course; Boy Scouts might be interested in using accesses, Project AWARE participation	-93.9471	42.66606
44	521d3537-63bc-49ab-900e-9d229a1648c1	Easy run area, but could cause scrapes if user unprepared for area	-93.9423	42.74126
46	9a99c187-6151-4768-a757-029c1cd03f32	Water backs up north of Goldfield; uses gauge stations to know water levels	-93.9334	42.75998
47	668de802-b200-4f71-a466-ddc175b75a2f	Rapids and J-hooks, nice attraction for river users; used materials from local farmers	-93.9258	42.73638
48	b0be2b93-dc6d-45d1-b1d0-f6d4bc47002b	Not too bad - log jams, needing to walk through stinging metals to get past them (Smith Park to Goldfield); county closed bridge, uses gravel roadway to access river	-93.9556	42.83663
49	4ec3323d-f74f-4b82-8809-a8dd7122e310	Overall area: Ton of wildlife in area, shaded, nice stretch of river; lots of log jams in the area	-93.9584	42.82253
50	14dbd440-e02d-4615-8638-323cf274d23c	Locals know it's seasonal, but others may not know; very narrow area	-93.9336	42.87388
51	ef6433d3-1c1d-4cc8-807a-05dc4fa716aa	Possible idea for an access	-93.9363	42.69037



SUMMARY OF WATER TRAIL SURVEY



SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Open from Feb. 9-March 3, 2021
- 99 total responses
- Shared during land manager, landowner and river user/public meetings in February
- Sent through emails to registered motorized and non-motorized vessel/angler user within Hamilton, Humboldt and Wright Counties, posted on Iowa Water Trails website
- Predominately non-landowners who consider themselves paddlers
 - Currently use the existing Boone River Water Trail (81)

SURVEY

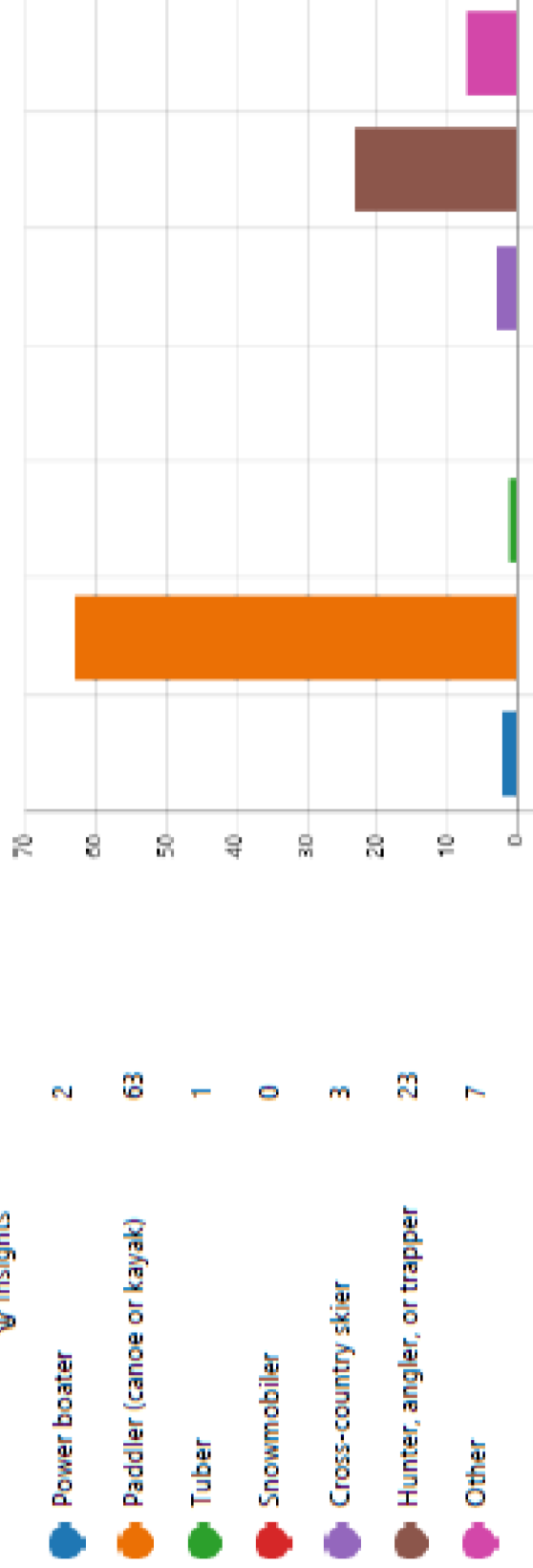
1. Do you own land adjacent to the Boone River?

Insights



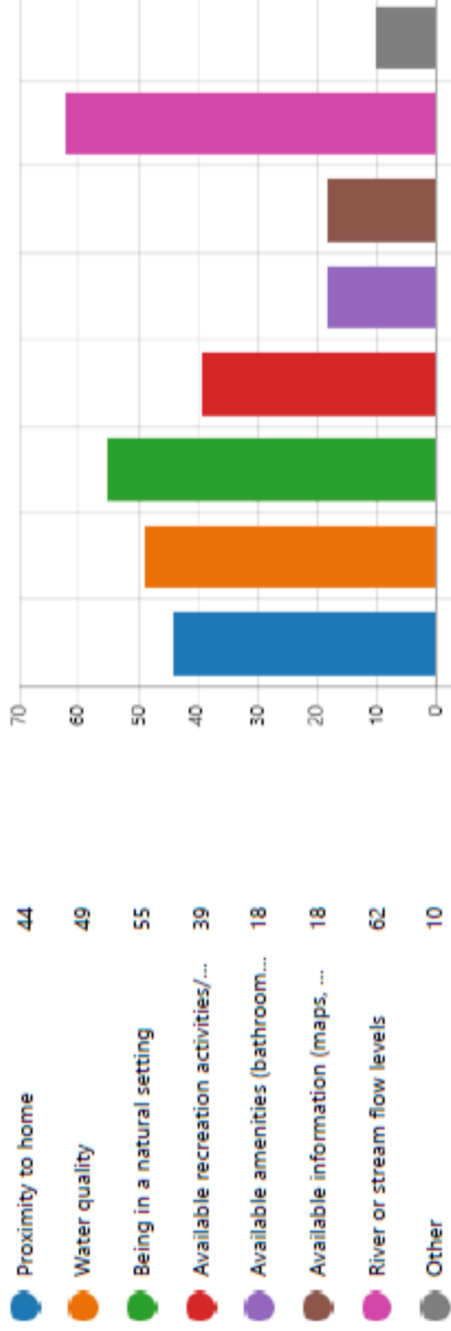
2. Please choose the one (1) option that best describes your use of water trails.

Insights

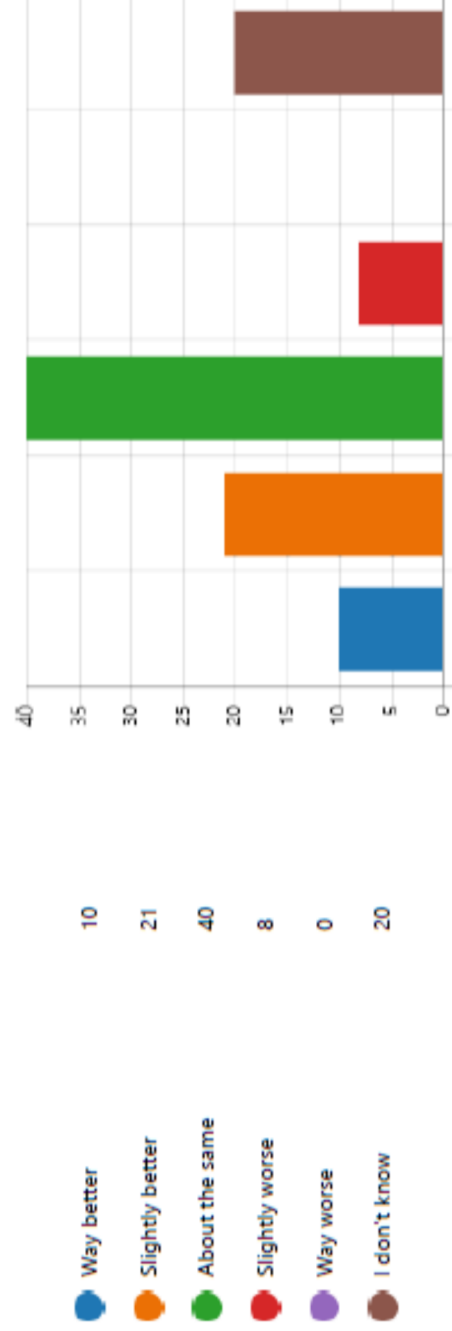


SURVEY

3. How important are the following factors to you when deciding to visit a river? Pick your top three (3) factors.



4. In general, relative to the water quality in other streams, the Boone River's water quality is (please choose one option):



SURVEY

5. Have you used or plan to use the existing Boone River Water Trail?

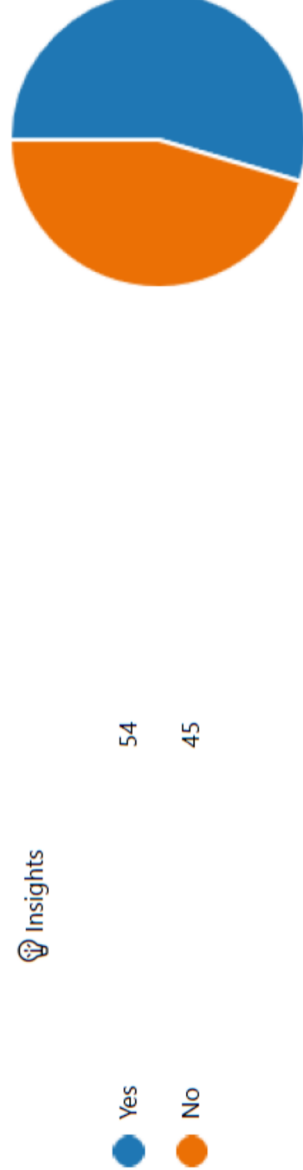


8. Have you used or plan to use the Boone River above Webster City to the Wright/Hancock County line (the area being studied for water trail extension)?



Insights

15. Would you be interested in receiving project updates or participating in the Boone River Watershed Management Authority as a stakeholder?



Insights

SURVEY

6. What improvements do you feel are needed along the existing Boone River Water Trail and/or its access points?
- 81 responses
 - Overall themes:
 - Access – maintenance, usage availability (boat ramps, kayak trailers), access improvements/updates, additional access points
 - Awareness – signage/map for access points, logjams/dams
 - Amenities – parking, restrooms, trash cans
 - Environmental – water quality, habitat improvements, stream bank stability, sediment control

SURVEY

7. Have you experienced river safety and/or law enforcement issues along the current Boone River Water Trail? If so, were those issues avoidable and/or what can be done by managers to improve either of these situations?

- 81 responses
- Overall themes:
 - 59 “no” responses
 - Dam – north part of Webster City
 - Irresponsibility – not using life jackets, using river at high levels, trespassing, litter
 - Downed trees, log jams
 - Unexperienced river users

SURVEY

9. If the water trail were to be expanded, which segments or areas would you be most interested in using?

▪ 73 responses

▪ Overall themes:

**Note these are areas with the most comments, review spreadsheet for complete list*

- All of it! (19)
- Webster City: North of Webster City (6)
- Woolstock: Woolstock to Webster City (5)
- Eagle Grove: Eagle Grove to Briggs Woods/Webster City (2)
- Goldfield: Goldfield to Eagle Grove (golf course) (2)
- Renwick: Renwick to Goldfield (3)



SURVEY

10. Rate your opinion on expanding the designated Boone River Water Trail to include the upper portion of the Boone River (from Webster City to the Wright/Hancock County line) from 1 (needs more information) to 5 (strongly in favor).

73

Responses

4.25

Average Number



SURVEY

11. What, if any, are your concerns with expanding the designated state water trail?

- 73 responses
- Overall themes:
 - 29 “no” responses
 - Environmental – water quality, water levels
 - Respect for river – too many people, littering, trespassing, removing dams, continued upkeep of river, possible overuse, illegal activity (i.e. drunk driving)
 - Accesses – maintenance, availability, parking
 - Landowner concerns

SURVEY

12. What benefits, if any, do you see with the possible extension of the river as a designated state water trail?

- 73 responses
- Overall themes:
 - Improved residential quality of life
 - Economic – tourism, recreational opportunities, more income to local communities
 - Improvements to – existing access points, more signage
 - Awareness – conservation, water quality, recreational opportunities, safety

SURVEY

13. What ideas do you have in dealing with the existing concerns/problems or enhancing the recreation opportunities along the river?

- 73 responses
- Overall themes:
 - Maintenance – river cleanup, additional cleanup efforts, log jam removal, make better use of resources you have (i.e. take care of current accesses)
 - Funding – for conservation boards to maintain, state support for major improvements, taxing items to pay for projects, donations for improvements, boat fees for improvements, public purchase of riverbanks
 - Enforcement – permits for kayaking, ticket people for littering, enforcement of laws
 - Accesses – more public access, good access points, improve Sportsman’s Park access, more parks/camping opportunities
 - Environmental – riverbank management, water quality mitigation, more wetlands/grasslands, sediment control
 - Public Input – opportunity for all parties to have a say, make it easier for river users to let their opinions be known, create awareness



SURVEY

14. Do you have any additional comments, ideas, questions, or concerns you'd like to provide?

- 99 responses
- Overall themes:
 - 57 “no” responses
 - Littering – expanding bottle deposit law, need to keep river clean
 - Recreational Opportunities – create more snowmobile trails, expanded public hunting access, make rental equipment available at one or more sites, shuttle service, more camping opportunities
 - Environmental – improve water quality and fishing, improved water levels, address log jams
 - Accesses – safe and easy access points, picnic areas, signage
 - Landowner concerns – safety, property, liability, trespassing, need to have equal footing
 - Need more information
 - Appreciative, supportive of project
 - Opposition toward project – “leave it as is,” “fun dream but not practical”

STAKEHOLDER INTEREST

15. Would you be interested in receiving project updates or participating in the Boone River Watershed Management Authority as a stakeholder?



**Contact information available in separate spreadsheet*



Boone River Watershed Management Authority
 Watershed Management Plan
 Open House Meeting
 Wednesday, February 2, 2022
 11:00 am - 1:00 pm and
 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm



ISU Extension and Outreach Wright County
 2302 Madison Avenue Ste. B, Clarion, IA, 50525

NAME	ADDRESS Street #, Street Name, City, Zip	PHONE	EMAIL
Sarah Nelson	221 14th St. Belmond, IA 50421	(515) 689-5608	jkhel5052@gmail.com
Bridget Shively	Clarion		
Kim Demary	Clarion		
Kurt Loung	2033 K RD Munbocot	515/571-0311	Krloung1@gmail.com
Brian Lammers	2490 Briggs Woods Trail Webster City IA. 50595	515-832-9570	blammers@hamiltoncounty.org
Jim Sayers	2356 240th St Humboldt IA 51528		Amtown2356@gmail.com
Betty Ellis	3063 265th St Dows, IA 50071		
Eric Rector	1770 Oberion Ave CLARION, IA 50525		erector@co.wright.ia.us

Please Sign In!



Boone River Watershed Management Authority
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 Wednesday, February 2, 2022
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ISU Extension and Outreach Wright County
 2302 Madison Avenue Ste. B, Clarion, IA, 50525

NAME	ADDRESS Street #, Street Name, City, Zip	PHONE	EMAIL
Kenthoille Carlson	115-2nd Ave NE Britt, Iowa 50423	641-843-3422	clarendean@ig.com
Laurie Johnson	2331 140 th St Belmond, IA 50421	641-425-5202	laurij11@hotmail.com
Brandon Deding		515-729-0039	bidings@ic.sospears.com
Shak Rasmussen	406 school st Goldfield 50542	515-840-7615	
Bruce Voigts	713 Maple Lane Clarion, Iowa	515-851-1342	bvoigts@netuail.com
Dale Kraft	1045 Buchanan Ave Corwith	515-368-0000	—
Colleen Trees	1865 Hwy 69 Belmond	515-571-9377	
David & Rhonda Stevenson	2073 Eastown Ave Goldfield, Iowa	515-851-8200	

Please Sign In!



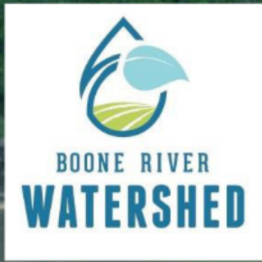
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ISU Extension and Outreach Wright County
2302 Madison Avenue Ste. B, Clarion, IA, 50525

NAME	ADDRESS Street #, Street Name, City, Zip	PHONE	EMAIL
Knute Severson	1591 Nelson Ave Clarion 50525	515-851-2200	KnuteSeverson@gmail.com

Please Sign In!



BOONE RIVER WATERSHED PLAN

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Plan Purpose

The Boone River Watershed Management Plan is sponsored by Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA), which is a voluntary coalition of local counties, cities, and soil and water conservation districts within the watershed. The plan identifies and prioritizes projects and activities to address water quality and flooding concerns across the watershed. Implementation of the plan is based on voluntary cooperation between WMA members, landowners, and other stakeholders.

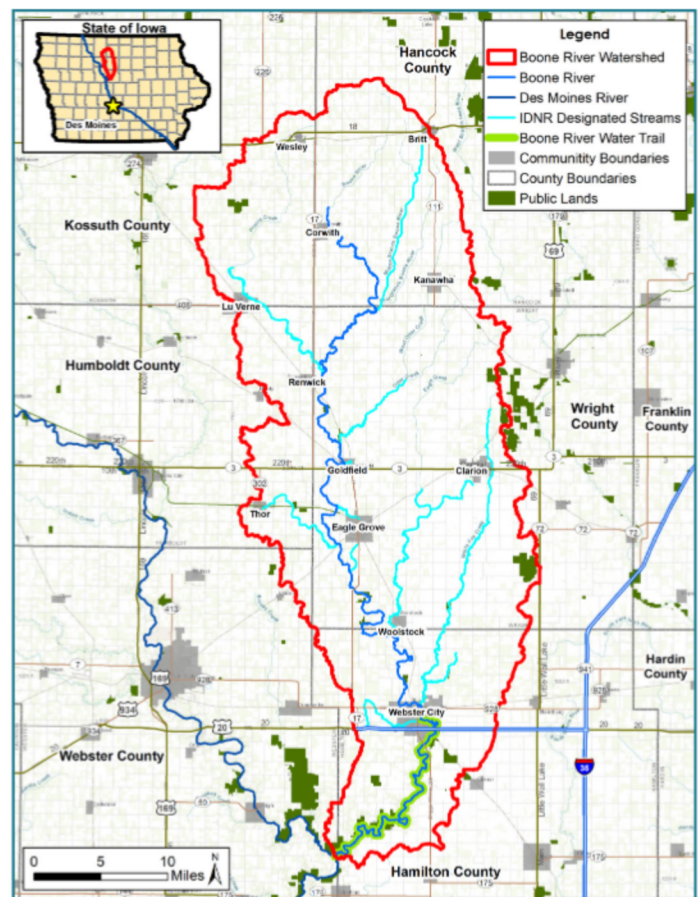
The Plan Vision

The WMA will be a local voice in existing and new watershed efforts through community, county, state, federal, and private partnerships to improve water quality and increase flood resiliency across the watershed. This will be achieved through facilitation of education, outreach, and implementation of practices which are voluntary, compatible with agriculture, economically viable, environmentally sound, and that improve soil health, as well as enhance recreation and wildlife habitat.

Established Goals

- 1 Ensure water quality is adequate for all uses, both within the watershed and downstream, by meeting state water quality standards and goals.
- 2 Reduce flood risks and improve wildlife habitat within the watershed.
- 3 Build an aware and engaged community that works towards improving watershed management.

The Boone WMA Planning Area



Primary Concerns to the Boone River Watershed Area

- » High Nitrogen Levels
- » High Phosphorous Levels
- » High Levels of Bacteria
- » Stream & Field Erosion
- » Flooding
- » Wildlife Habitat
- » Recreation

Short-Term Action Plan

The action plan identifies priority activities that each city, county, and SWCD, along with the WMA should take over the next 5 years. The short-term action plan has been developed around a framework of four categories of activities which include Education, Projects and Studies, Partnerships and Policy, and Monitoring and Plan Evaluation. Each of these categories contain recommended actions that help to address the objectives identified in the Boone River Watershed Plan goals.



Education

Outreach, education, or technical assistance aimed at various target audiences that helps to increase awareness of the WMA, the watershed plan, or assists in the increased adoption of BMPs.

Projects & Studies

A standalone or specific effort meant to produce a product, tool, report, or achieve a tangible result.

Partnerships & Policy

Collaboration between WMA members or other partners and the resulting actions, guidelines, or protocols set forth to achieve a specific outcome.

Monitoring & Plan Evaluation

Efforts to collect, manage, and utilize data over time to track progress of meeting watershed plan goals.

Long-Term Implementation Strategy

This 20-year plan will take education and buy-in of landowners, farmers, and communities, plus grants and other funds to help make it a reality. An overarching strategy has been developed to guide this ambitious project. To ensure strategies continue to be assessed and reviewed, the WMA will update this plan every five years.

Key Strategies for Long-Term Implementation

- » Voluntary Adoption of BMPs
- » Compatibility with Agriculture
- » Phased Implementation
- » Identification of Priorities
- » Whole Farm Conservation
- » Policies for Sustainable Communities
- » Flood Resiliency

Education Plan

Education and outreach refer to the on-going process of informing and involving the watershed's population in the development and implementation of the watershed plan. This process is essential as the success of the watershed plan is dependent on the voluntary efforts of the watershed's communities, landowners, residents, and other stakeholders.

Key Strategies for Education and Outreach

1. Utilize messaging from the Whole Farm Conservation Manual
2. Provide farmers and landowners with information on the economics of conservation.
3. Implement lessons learned from the Lyons Creek Watershed Improvement Project.
4. Utilize water trails to create a sense of place and leverage opportunities for educational outlets.
5. Utilize ACPF mapping to prioritize outreach to critical source areas.
6. Leverage virtual technology to expand outreach efforts.

Next Steps

Public comment on the draft Boone River Watershed Plan is open until March 2, 2021. All residents and landowners of the Boone River Watershed are invited to offer feedback about the contents of the plan prior to this date. The final version of the plan will be adopted at the April Boone WMA board meeting.

For more information or to share feedback, contact the WMA or planning team.

CONTACT INFO

Dan Kluss, Wright County Supervisor
WMA Board Chairperson
dkluss@co.wright.ia.us

The Belmont Independent

Belmont, Iowa 50421

- News
- Sports
- Obituaries
- Links
- e-Edition
- Multimedia

River trail planned in Wright County

Jan 29, 2021



The Iowa Department of Natural Resources and the Boone River Watershed Management Authority are hosting a virtual public meeting on Feb. 10, at 6 p.m. to discuss a proposal to extend the Boone River Water Trail from its current position in Webster City north through Goldfield to the Wright-Hancock County line. To sign up, go to bit.ly/3ovTQYG.

The Boone River Water Trail currently runs from Webster City to the confluence with the Des Moines River in the southern portion of the Boone River Watershed.

"If you fish, paddle, or tube the Boone River, or engage in other recreational activities along the Boone River, we'd like your input," said John Wenck, water trails coordinator for the Iowa DNR.

He encouraged users to complete an online Boone River survey

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?>

[l=g8ZFJvzG00OybdB5p8ubx9gSlkv8iDBDmLqOxP2k1QIUN1hWMDBHT1kxVVRNRFRIWjFIMjRPMkFNRI4u\)](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?l=g8ZFJvzG00OybdB5p8ubx9gSlkv8iDBDmLqOxP2k1QIUN1hWMDBHT1kxVVRNRFRIWjFIMjRPMkFNRI4u)

that will help determine the next steps in the process. The survey will be open through March 3.

For more information, contact Wenck at john.wenck@dnr.iowa.gov or Alyssa Tenorio with JEO Consulting Group at atenorio@jeo.com.





BOONE RIVER
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
AUTHORITY

Join the Boone River WMA to learn about the watershed management plan and provide your feedback on the draft plan.

To view the draft plan and learn more about the WMA, visit booneriver.org.

OPEN HOUSE

FEBRUARY 2, 2022 | 11 AM - 1 PM or 5 - 7 PM

ISU Extension and Outreach Wright County | 2302 Madison Ave Ste B | Clarion, IA

RSVP to Alyssa Tenorio with JEO Consulting at atenorio@jeo.com.

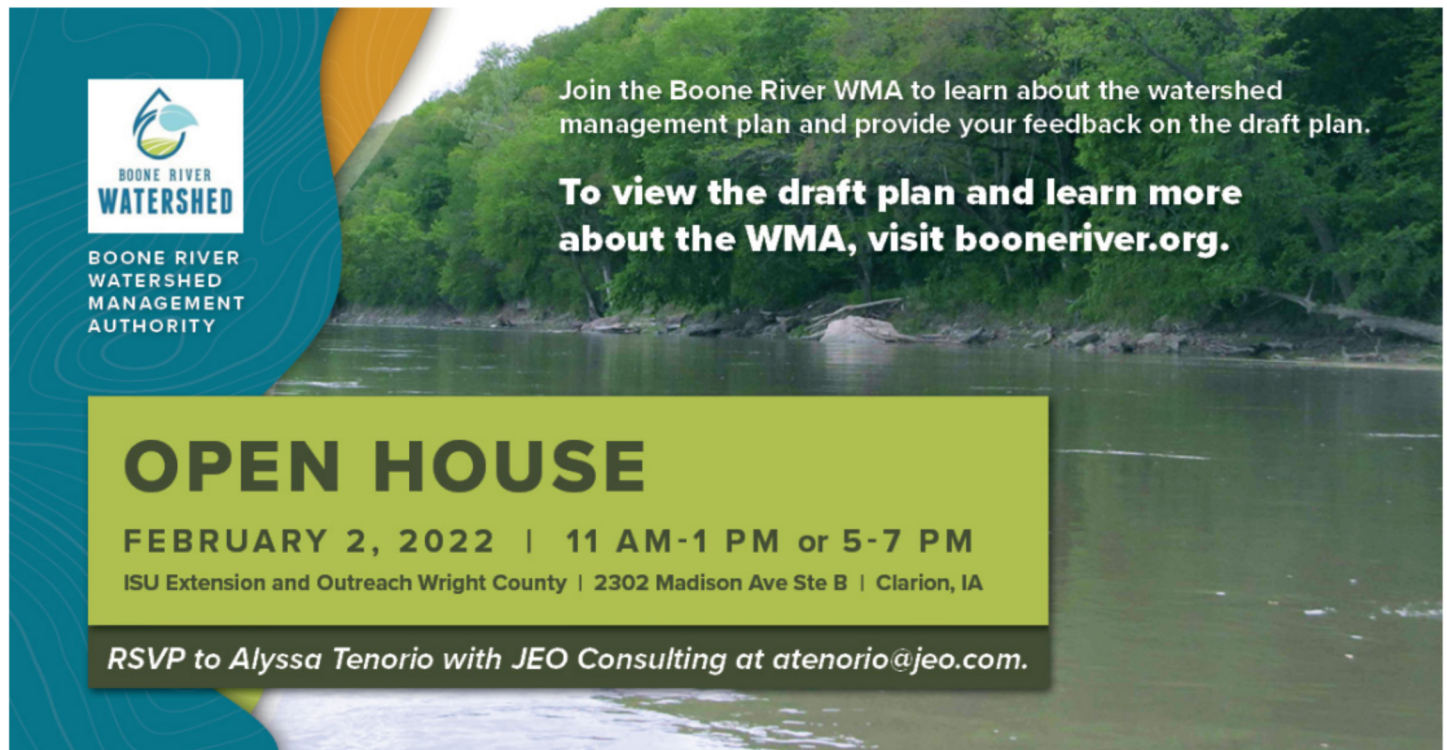
Watershed Plan Revealed


Karen Wilke, The Nature Conservancy

Over the past two years, the Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA) has diligently worked to create a watershed plan that identifies and addresses the water quality and flooding concerns within the Boone River Watershed. The watershed plan will serve as a guidebook for addressing watershed concerns through voluntary cooperation between the WMA, landowners, farmers, and other watershed stakeholders. The three main goals of the watershed plan are to ensure water quality is adequate for all uses, both within the watershed and downstream; reduce flood risks and improve wildlife habitat within the watershed; and build an aware and engaged community that works towards improving the watershed. We all live in a watershed, and this plan lays out the activities we can all do to create a healthy landscape.

Join us for a chance to review the draft watershed plan and provide input at a free public open house hosted by the WMA on Wednesday February 2 at the Wright County Iowa State University Extension and Outreach office in Clarion, with options to join in person anytime between 11:00am-1:00pm or 5:00pm-7:00pm. Free lunch will be offered during the lunchtime meeting and cookies and coffee will be offered during the evening meeting. If you cannot attend or prefer to provide feedback virtually, please send comments to Adam Rupe with JEO Consulting Group at arupe@jeo.com by February 3. More information about the WMA and the draft watershed plan can be found at www.BooneRiver.org.

The WMA is a voluntary coalition of local counties, cities and soil and water conservation districts within the watershed. Their vision is to be a local voice in existing and new watershed efforts through community, county, state, federal, and private partnerships to improve water quality and increase flood resiliency across the watershed. This will be achieved through facilitation of education, outreach, and implementation of practices which are voluntary, compatible with agriculture, economically viable, environmentally sound, and that improve soil health, as well as enhance recreation and wildlife habitat.




BOONE RIVER
WATERSHED
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FEBRUARY 2, 2022 | 11 AM-1 PM or 5-7 PM

ISU Extension and Outreach Wright County | 2302 Madison Ave Ste B | Clarion, IA

RSVP to Alyssa Tenorio with JEO Consulting at atenorio@jeo.com.

Open House Meeting, Public Input for the Boone River WMA Watershed Management Plan

Landowners and residents within the Boone River Watershed are invited to learn more about the recently drafted Boone River Watershed Management Plan through two upcoming open house meetings on Wednesday, February 2, 2022. A lunch open house will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with an evening option available from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; both meetings at the ISU Extension and Outreach Wright County (2302 Madison Avenue Ste. B, Clarion, IA, 50525). The public is invited to attend either open house; no formal presentations are planned, and refreshments will be served at both meetings.

Each open house will feature informational displays and handouts detailing the community-guided watershed management planning efforts, including the plan's primary goals to improve water quality, increase flood resiliency, and increase wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. These goals and accompanying set of actions will be voluntarily implemented by the Boone

River WMA members, partners, landowners, and farmers within its boundaries. Resources and information will also be available at the meeting for those interested in proposed watershed best management practices or conservation practices.

Planning efforts were conducted in collaboration with Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA) board members, Iowa State (ISU) Extension, Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS), Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as well as other local officials and agency leaders. Boone River WMA board members, representatives from ISU, and the consultant team will be available for discussion and questions during the open house. The plan relies on voluntary efforts from farmers, landowners, and WMA representatives and will help to bring in additional grant funds to pay for the efforts.

The Boone River starts near Wesley and Britt and flows south through Webster City before meeting up with

the Des Moines River. The watershed includes all areas that drain to the river and covers portions of Kossuth, Hancock, Humboldt, Wright, Webster, and Hamilton Counties. The WMA is a voluntary coalition of representatives from local soil and water conservation districts (SWCD), cities, and counties; additional partners include the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA), Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship (IDALS), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services (USFWS), among others. Funding for the planning process was provided through the Iowa DNR's Watershed Improvement Grant.

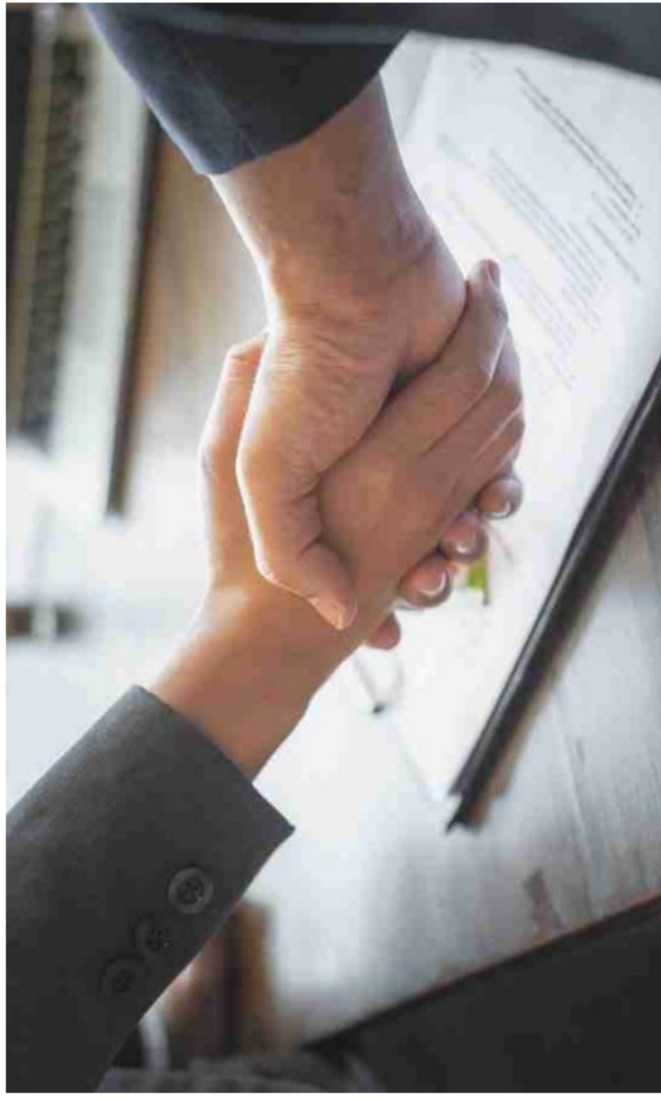
All residents and landowners in the Boone River WMA are encouraged to attend this open house to learn more about the plan and its recommendations. To RSVP for public open house meetings, please email Alyssa Tenorio at atenorio@jeo.com. For more information about the Boone WMA and to view the draft plan, visit booneriver.org/.

Home / Agriculture / Open House Meeting for Boone River WMA Watershed Management Plan Today

Agriculture News

Open House Meeting for Boone River WMA Watershed Management Plan Today

AJ Taylor · 22 hours ago · Last Updated: February 2, 2022



The Boone River WMA is having an open house today from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the ISU Extension and Outreach Office located at 2302 Madison Avenue, Clarion, IA.

The public is invited to attend the open house. No formal presentations are planned, and refreshments will be served at both meetings. Each open house will feature informational displays and handouts detailing the community guided watershed management planning efforts, including the plans primary goals to improve water quality, increase flood resiliency, and increase wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Share

KIOW Live Stream

On now **ZNDY GRAMMER**
Fine By Me
Andy Grammer Listen live

Available on the **App Store** **Google play**
amazon alexa

Poll

With the increasingly high inflation numbers and shortages which are expected to continue, are you concerned about meeting your financial needs this winter?

- Yes, we will not be able to on our income.
- Unsure
- Yes, it will be tight.
- No, I will work multiple jobs to get by.
- No, I've got plenty of money.

Submit [View results](#)

Current Weather

1 °F
↑ 3° - 2°
↓ 56%
⇌ 5.75 mph
Forest City, IA
Clear Sky

ors ing ty tax

melia and farm ground will be used to pay Ellis added that they not be levying any tional taxes to pay for pan.

The board passed a tion approving the rsement of funds he American Rescue ct. The county ved \$2.4 million for ID relief and have ar earmarked around million for projects oughout the county such aycares, broadband at Cornelia and other ID mitigation efforts. k back in next week's r for a longer story ve the funds are going.

Peggy Schluttenhofer, ht County Treasurer, ented a letter from US Fish and Wildlife ice requesting ement of drainage ssments and to be n off of the delinquent Per Iowa code, that y does not have to drainage assessments any ground owned in ht County. Kluss en lobbying for lation to change that as r landowners are left to lder the payments. The d voted to keep the US and Wildlife Service e delinquent list and bate again.

n the COVID update, y McGrath said there een a decline in cases 40 new ones in the y last week. She added h that those numbers e skewed since there uch at home testing appening. Recorded t that go into the y total are those that entified through a lab, e Health, or Test Iowa. county is at a 55.8% nation rate. McGrath t that Public Health ill test for COVID ffers vaccinations at office. She said that n the state's Public Disaster Emergency mation is ending bruary 15, the state ontinue to monitor ariants and notify blic of changes and ns.

Boone River Watershed plan unveiled

Watershed Management Authority inviting public comments on the plan

By Bridget Shileny
Wright County Monitor
Editor

Last week, various entities gathered to share a new plan for the Boone River Watershed area. Members and stakeholders from the Boone River Watershed Management Authority (WMA) held an open house at the Wright County Extension office to share the plan with the public.

The Boone River Watershed stretches just north of Wesley down to Stratford and consists of about 581,000 acres. According to the WMA literature, their organization is a voluntary coalition of local counties, cities, and soil and water conservation districts within the watershed. Their members include the city of Goldfield, plus Kossuth, Hancock, Humboldt, Wright and Hamilton counties, and all those counties' Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) in addition to Webster County's SWCD.

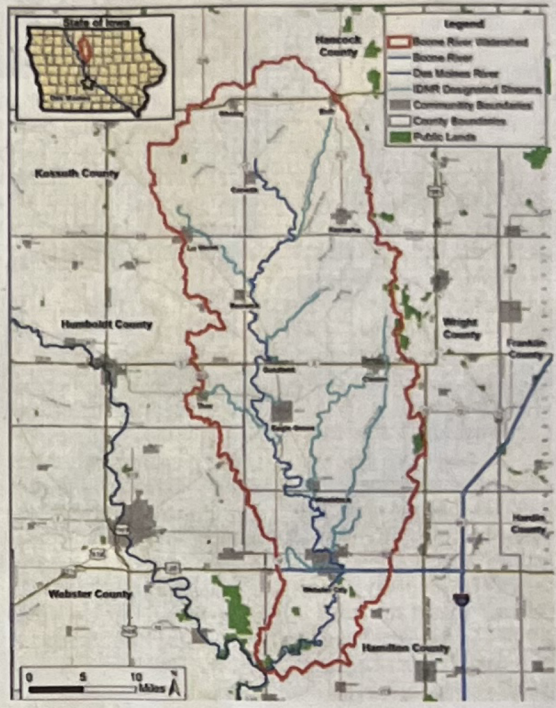
Karen Wilke, the Iowa Freshwater Specialist & Boone River Project Director for the Nature Conservancy, said the Boone River watershed group has existed informally for about twenty years. In 2019, the different local and county entities came together to establish a formalized group. Wilke added that this partnership makes it possible to fight water quality problems together as well as be eligible for state and federal funding.

The group has been working the last two years to formulate a plan that is now laid in an over 200-page report. It establishes several goals for the watershed. 1) Ensure water quality is adequate for all uses, both within the watershed and downstream, by meeting state water quality standards and goals. 2) reduce flood risks and improve wildlife habitat within the watershed.

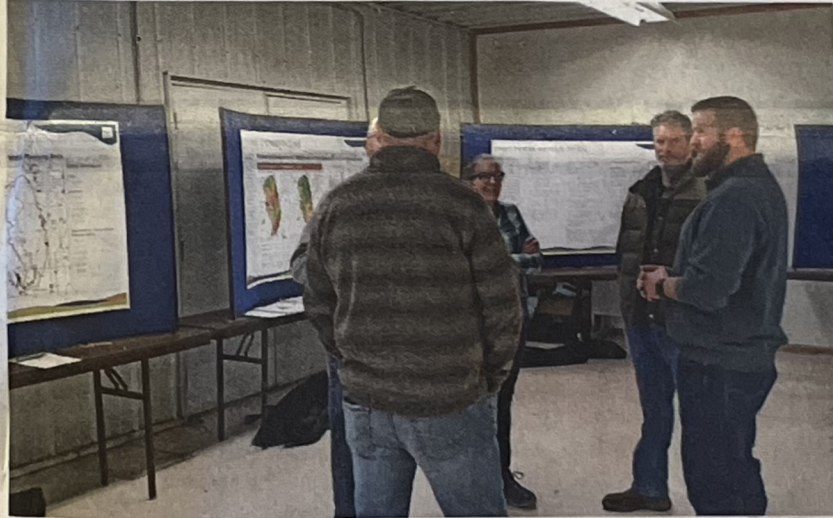
3) Build an aware and engaged community that works towards improving watershed management. The plan also identifies several "primary concerns" to the watershed area, including high nitrogen levels, high phosphorous levels, high levels of bacteria, erosion, flooding, wildlife habitat and recreation.

The watershed plan sets forth both short-term and long-term actions and strategies. Short-term actions for the next five years include things like education, studies, projects and establishing partnerships. The plan dictates that long-term goals will need the cooperation of landowners, farmers, and communities plus funding sources.

Adam Rupe with JEO Consulting Group who



The Boone River Watershed Area. From booneriver.org



Several members of the public attended an open house in Clarion last week where the Boone River Watershed Plan was unveiled. The Watershed Management Authority invites public comments and feedback about the plan. Photo by Bridget Shileny

helped write the plan said it was formulated using existing data, plus data from entities like the DNR and Nature Conservancy. He added, "If the WMA adopts the plan, local entities will work to implement it. Each entity will focus on certain areas, work with landowners and continue to educate."

Local farmer and the chair of the Wright County Soil and Water Commission

Josh Nelson added that he is optimistic about the steps the Boone River WMA is taking by unveiling this plan. "Someone has to take the lead on conservation and water quality issues," said Nelson. "It also has to be a local effort. We're hoping this will all catch on."

As the planning process enters its final stages, the Boone River WMA is seeking public feedback on the current draft of the

plan. Members of the public are invited to share their comments and feedback with the planning team and WMA information will be used to help guide the final review and adoption of the plan. The full draft of the plan can be viewed at booneriver.org. To comment on the plan or ask questions, you can contact Dean Kluss, WMA Board Chairperson at dkluss@co.wright.ia.us