



**STORY COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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August 27, 2020

Good Day!

In 2018 several jurisdictions in our area entered into a 28E agreement to form the Headwaters of the South Skunk River Watershed Management Authority (WMA). A copy of the agreement is attached, for your information.

No additional work to organize our WMA has been done to-date, primarily due to a lack of time and funds to put to the effort. However, recently the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR) contacted us to let us know that they have funding available through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act for at least one new watershed project in Iowa. They will be issuing a request for proposals later this year, and wanted to assess our interest in applying. With funding, we would then be able to work on a plan for improvements in our watershed.

To apply for funding available through the DNR, the Headwaters WMA would need to organize - hold a meeting, elect officers, pass a motion in support of seeking funding and draft letters of support. We are writing to you to determine your interest in proceeding in this direction.

Jurisdictions that have signed the 28E Agreement so far:

Cities: Ames, Randall, Roland and Story City

County: Story

Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Hamilton and Story

Jurisdictions that have not yet signed the 28E Agreement:

Cities: Blairsburg, Ellsworth, Jewell, Kamrar and Williams

Counties: Boone, Hamilton and Hardin

Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Boone and Hardin

I am asking that you let us know of your interest by doing the following:

- 1. If you have not signed the 28E agreement, consider doing so now. Blank signature pages are attached; please select the appropriate one for your jurisdiction, complete it and return it to me at the above address if your jurisdiction decides to join.**

- 2. If you have previously signed the 28E agreement or are doing so now, appoint someone from your jurisdiction's board to represent your jurisdiction on the Headwaters of the South Skunk WMA and send us a copy of the appointment.** Alternately, you may appoint a staff person as your representative if a board member cannot serve. Please include the person's contact information – mailing address, email address and preferred phone number.

If your jurisdiction is already participating in the Squaw Creek WMA, you can consider appointing the same person to the Headwaters WMA. The watersheds are adjacent, and six (6) of the seventeen (17) entities represented on this WMA (City of Ames; Boone and Story Counties; Boone, Hamilton and Story Soil and Water Conservation District) already are actively participating with the Squaw Creek WMA. In at least one other area in Iowa, two adjacent WMAs are meeting and planning jointly, and that may be a possibility for us. Even if joint meetings are not held, developing specific expertise and sharing it through participation in both WMAs could be useful. A map of the two watersheds and a list of the members of the Squaw Creek WMA are attached.

- 3. Share the information in this letter with your appointed representative.**
- 4. If you are not ready to join us yet but would like to learn more, please let us know and we will invite you to our first meeting.**

We hope to hear from you soon. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or thoughts to share.

Sincerely,



Linda Murken, Chair
Story Co. Board of Supervisors
lmurken@storycountyiowa.gov

Enclosures:

28E Agreement for Headwaters of the South Skunk WMA
Blank signature page for 28E Agreement
Map of Watersheds (Squaw Creek and Headwaters of the South Skunk)