

**Boone County Watershed Committee
Don Williams Lake Watershed Improvement Project**

MEETING SUMMARY

March 10, 2011

6:30 pm

Don Williams Park Office

Attendees:

Andy Hockenson, Boone County Conservation Board, Project Vice-Chair
John Paulin, Prairie Rivers of Iowa RC&D, Meeting Facilitator
Scott Smith, Boone County Landfill/KBCB, Project Secretary
Todd Sutphin, Iowa Soybeans Association, Watershed Plan Coordinator
Kevin Kordick, NRCS
Emily Klein, County Naturalist
Lois Powers, Boone County Landfill/KBCB
Lisa Anderson, Boone County Landfill/KBCB
Jeremy Johannsen, NRCS
Chad Curry Rich Grove Chuck Reedholm
Brian Burge George Ahrens Tim Adreon
Brad Carsten and son Jim Turbes, KWBG Betty Lingren
Stan Lingren Al Lingren O.D. Muench
Michael Swank

Welcome & Introductions: John Paulin served as meeting facilitator and asked everyone in introduce who they are.

Review of Vision Statement: John read the adopted vision statement:

Vision Statement:

Establish the Don Williams Lake Watershed Project as a study in the joining of people and processes leading to ecological health, recreational enjoyment and Iowa's agriculture for future generations.

Review of Activities Conducted since the last Public Meeting: The Land Use, Gully, and Stream assessments in the Watershed have been conducted. This has taken the past year to finish. The shoreline assessment still needs to be conducted.

Also, the following activities have been conducted since the project began:

- **Iowater:** The Iowater volunteer training class has been conducted.

- **Project Website:** The page can be found under “Watershed Protection” in the “Keep Boone County Beautiful” section of the Boone County site: www.boonecounty.iowa.gov.
- **Mobile Watershed Education Center.** The MWEC is ready to be used as a mobile classroom.
- **Stream Table.** County Conservation has a stream table that can be used in educational demonstrations.
- **Plan Developer:** The project issued Requests for Proposals for developing a watershed improvement plan. The Iowa Soybean Association was selected to provide the requested services.

What Is A Watershed Plan? Todd Sutphin with the Iowa Soybean Association presented information on what is involved in developing a watershed Improvement Plan. The project has contracted with the ISA to prepare the plan. A link on the project web page under the section, “What Is a Watershed Plan?” shares the presentation.

Todd shared that a watershed improvement plan is based on what assessments identify as areas of concern and what the property owners feel comfortable with undertaking. This is a voluntary-based system. It is also long-term. A plan will look at five, 10 and 20 year goals.

Other Lake Activities:

Lake Draw Down to Conduct Dam Maintenance: A question was asked about the plans to draw down the lake. Andy shared that the lake will be lowered by 16’ this October/November. At that time maintenance to the spillway and dam will be conducted. This is a separate project from the watershed project. It will allow for some investigation about the depth of sediment in the northern part of the lake.

At some point in the future, it is hoped that funding will allow for sediment removal from the north part of the lake. The construction of sedimentation traps would then take place that would more effectively manage sedimentation.

Gizzard Shad Kill-Off: A question was raised about the shad problem and the affect it is having on fishing. Andy reported that when the lake is lowered IDNR Fisheries will conduct a chemical based kill-off of the shad. Fisheries will then conduct a restocking of the lake. It is hoped that this will bring back the previous vitality of fishing to the lake in about two to three years.

Mention was made of a IDNR Fisheries report that documents the shad problem and how it has affected the game fish in the lake. Staff hopes to obtain this report and post it on the Project’s web page.

Celebrate the Lake: Lisa reported that planning is underway to hold the first “Celebrate the Lake” event on June 4th. The event will provide individuals and families with an excellent

opportunity to come and enjoy the lake and learn about its history and challenges. The event is being held in conjunction with the State's "Free Fishing Weekend."

Wrap Up/Next Steps: Additional Public Meetings will be held as the plan is developed. The Plan will become the guide for the watershed's property owners as they decide on which improvements to undertake on a voluntary basis. The plan, once approved the USEPA, will make improvement projects eligible for additional funding sources.

Adjourn: Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.