



Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Committee

MINUTES

Johnson County REAP Committee

Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.

Second Floor Boardroom, 913 S. Dubuque St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Participate in person or by joining the Zoom meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82682290944?pwd=ZGx4WTI1Tk1lVDNqYkM2QlVtRmNVZz09>

Meeting ID: 826 8229 0944; Passcode: 620350

or dial (312) 626-6799

Members Present:

Attendees present in Boardroom:

Peg Fraser, Chairperson
Terry Dahms, Vice Chairperson
Larry Gullet, Johnson County Conservation
Sherri Proud, City of Coralville
Brad Freidhof, Johnson County Conservation
Jim Trepka, Sierra Club
Jill Wenger, Board of Supervisors Office

Attending via Zoom:

Juli Seydell Johnson, City of Iowa City
Terry Donahue, North Liberty Mayor
Tim Brown, Solon Community School District Board of Directors President
Louise From, University Heights Mayor
Mitch Thompson, Johnson County Historic Preservation Commission Chair
Royceann Porter, Johnson County Supervisor and Vice Chairperson

- 1. Call to order: 5:00 p.m.**
- 2. Public comment (*limit comments to 3 minutes*).** No public comment.
- 3. Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.** Both Peg Fraser and Terry Dahms want to remain in office. Motion by Proud to keep this slate of officers. Second by Seydell Johnson. Approved.
- 4. Approve August 5, 2020 Johnson County REAP Committee meeting minutes.** Motion by Donahue, second by Proud. Approved.

Dahms asked results of last year's applications. City of Coralville received grant funds, City of Iowa City received a grant for Whispering Meadows, Johnson County Conservation received \$400,000 for fen project. Dahms stated he is pleased that this total amount of funding came into Johnson County.

- 5. Present REAP grant applications for review and comment by the Committee.**
 - a. City of Coralville application for West Land Use Park Area Acquisition for \$125,000.** Presented by Sherri Proud.

Review and comment: Dahms stated this is another very worthwhile project that fits in with other acquisitions so that there is one large, contiguous block of natural areas. This makes all kinds of sense to preserve and keep from development.

Trepka stated that what is great about all three of these applications is that they are very accessible to the urban population that we have in Johnson County. Including Cedar Rapids, we have over 10% of the state within 30 miles of this area—and suggested stressing that point in these applications.

Donahue stated that this is the best use of this property.

Freidhof stated that as a Coralville resident, he likes to see our taxpayer dollars go to these types of projects. With the large interstate close by, and the population growing quickly, protecting greenspace from development is very important to preserve for the current and future generations. This is what we need to be doing with fundings from the REAP monies.

b. City of Iowa City application for Ryerson's Woods State Preserve Ecological Enhancement and Restoration for \$200,000. Presented by Juli Seydell Johnson.

Review and comment: Freidhof stated that both Iowa City and Coralville have done a good job of keeping with the ecological importance of sites; they require maintenance, so making these financial steps toward improving the ecology and health of this site is good. This property has always been known for having a good mix of species, Freidhof has even seen a bobcat onsite. This property ties into the Iowa River, which is very important. Maintaining the health of this habitat is key, and is what REAP is all about. Enhance and protect the resources that are already there.

Donahue said that this is a complementary project to Terry Trueblood. He doesn't know of any other counties that do such a great job of keeping properties up to the level of maintenance that Johnson County does.

c. Johnson County Conservation Department application for acquisition of the 83-acre Melloy Property for \$300,000. Presented by Larry Gullet.

Review and comment: Proud stated this project fits perfectly with both Johnson County REAP goals as well as State of Iowa REAP goals. Ecologically, the structures on the farm are a bonus. Proud likes that the Native American people of the loway tribe will be recognized, this is very important that they will have access to this property. For our Johnson County residents, it is essential to have spots like this to study and enjoy. Great project.

Dahms said this is one of most impressive REAP applications he has seen. Incredible property. Impressed with how clean of invasives it is, unlike like many other properties. Likes the acres going to the loway tribe. Thinks this is an incredible opportunity. The price is impressive, with Conservation putting in \$300,000 as well as tapping into the bond monies for \$950,000, this is a good match. This project ticks off all the things we want in a REAP application.

6. Review and approve 2020-2024 Johnson County Resource Enhancement and Protection Plan. Per Iowa Code the Committee is required to submit a five-year plan, including one-year expenditure plan, to the Iowa DNR.

The duties of the County resource enhancement committee are outlined in Iowa Code Chapter 455A.20, and summarized as follows: ...Each county committee shall propose a five-year program plan which includes a one-year proposed expenditure plan and submit it to the department.

Proud is working to update the overall total value and project listings, Johnson County Conservation Board has requested a different order for those projects. Moved by Donahue to incorporate the changes, seconded by Freidhof. Approved with noted revisions.

7. Next meeting date and time: Thursday, August 4, 2022 at 5:00 p.m., pending any changes needed to accommodate next year's deadline.

8. Adjourn