



## Johnson County Resource Enhancement Committee

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### Johnson County Resource Enhancement (REAP) Committee Meeting Minutes - **DRAFT** Wednesday, July 31, 2019 5:00 p.m.

Johnson County Administration Building  
Second Floor Boardroom  
913 South Dubuque Street  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Present:

- Tyler Baird, City of Lone Tree
- Donna Brooks, Board of Supervisors
- Terry Dahms, REAP
- Terry Donahue, City of North Liberty
- Peg Fraser, REAP Chair
- Brad Freidhof, Johnson County Conservation
- Lisa Green-Douglass, Johnson County Board of Supervisors
- Alexandra McKendree, Johnson County Historical Society
- Jennifer Price, Johnson County Historical Society
- Sherri Proud, City of Coralville
- Cami Rasmussen, City of Solon
- Linda Schreiber, REAP Committee
- Juli Seydell Johnson, City of Iowa City Parks and Recreation
- Sandy Steil, member of the public
- Jill Wenger, Board of Supervisors
- Larry Wilson, Johnson County Conservation Board

Chairperson Peg Fraser called the Johnson County Resource Enhancement Committee to order at 5:00 p.m. Presentation, discussion, review, and comments were heard on the following REAP grant applications: City of Coralville application for West Land Use Park Land and Fen Preservation Buffer, City of Iowa City application for Ecological Restoration at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area, City of Iowa City/Project GREEN application for Ashton House Park improvements, City of Lone Tree application for Dougherty Park Prairie Creek improvements, and City of Solon application for Solon Recreation and Nature Center improvements.

**Discuss status of the County REAP plan.** Sherri, Brad, and another person began making revisions, but still need to complete the draft. Sherri stated she still needs to work on revisions. Discussion that we might consider incorporating state, county, city plans in this document. Next steps are to get a draft for the REAP committee review. Then distributed to all the different area boards and groups for comment. Then the document goes back to the REAP Committee for approval. Sherri did not commit to a timeline.

Discussion that REAP expires in 2021. Brad suggested being in touch with legislative representatives, this program is really important to our county and communities. Hopefully this is a continuing program.

**Set tentative meeting date and time for a 2020 County REAP Committee meeting.** Next year's REAP Committee meeting date is tentatively set for August 5, 2020 in the Administration Building located at 913 S. Dubuque Street, Iowa City in the second floor Boardroom.

**Approve August 13, 2018 Johnson County REAP Committee meeting minutes.** Correction: add Terry Dahms, Vice Chairperson of REAP to the list of those present. Julie Seydell Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes as corrected; Brad Freidhof seconded. Motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Jill Wenger, Board of Supervisors Office

DRAFT



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### 2019 Review of REAP Grant Applications Wednesday, July 31, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.

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Project: City of Coralville application for West Land Use Park Land and Fen Preservation Buffer

Presented by: Sherri Proud

Amount of request: \$125,000

Project description:

The City of Coralville seeks to purchase 7.5 acres of land that will be part of a larger project that is 80 acres in total. The land purchase is for a new park in the Coralville's west land use area. The proposed 7.5 acre purchase will provide a buffer to a fen, a diverse wetland environment that is somewhat unique in the State of Iowa. The fen which was the subject and award for a 2018 REAP grant for the City of Coralville and the City seek to purchase additional land bordering the fen for a buffer. When developed, the park will celebrate the native landscapes of fens, woodlands, and prairie areas while bringing people up close with these features through interpretive trails, exploration nodes, and a nature center.

Sherri Proud discussed this project. Location was discussed. Brad commented lots of oaks on the property. They were successful last year and got it purchased, DOT in process of getting their parcel purchased. In relation to the North Liberty boundary, is just south. There has been no adjustment in the boundary between Coralville and North Liberty. At some point it will be connected. Not aware it will connect to Tiffin's trail, but Clear Creek Trail will connect in approximately two years.

Review and Comments:

Brad F: I'm a Coralville resident, very excited about the protection of green space. This is a core 14 acres here, I'm excited to see the potential to add on now and in the future. There is huge growth in this part of the county, green space is vital for both recreational opportunities, water quality, wildlife habitat. Very important and needed in this area because of the fast development and hard surfacing of this area. Green space is vital.


LGD: A fen is a very rare thing, there are not many in the county (maybe one). Fortunately this was found before development occurred. This is a good chance to protect it.

Terry Dahms: This project was awarded money last year, so it was a successful application so that speaks very highly of this application. Only one other fen that we know about (in this county), and it is protected. This is really appealing because this is all native, native woodlands, fen, maybe native prairie that will be protected. This is an outstanding application. A very comprehensive, complete, integrated

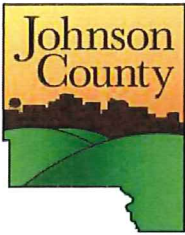
master plan, well-conceived and thought out. These type of projects tend to create some momentum for other projects. I fully endorse.

Larry Wilson: As a Coralville resident, I think this is an excellent project. It's part of a master plan, connected to land owners, REAP already purchased, this should be held in conservation with the fen and other natural areas. This checks all the boxes, I recommend for approval.

Linda Schreiber: I want to echo everyone else. With a growing population, additional outdoor recreational areas are great. This is well designed and well thought out, and part of a continuing process that Coralville has set out.

Signature:   
Peg Fraser, Resource Enhancement Committee Chair

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Project: City of Iowa City application for Ecological Restoration at Terry Trueblood Recreation Area

Presented by: Julie Seydell Johnson

Amount of request: \$300,000

Project description:

Terry Trueblood Recreation Area was established by the City of Iowa City in 2005. Since then it has become one of the most used parks in the region for fishing, hiking, birding, and outdoor recreation uses. The forested western area of the park has documented restoration and enhancement needs. This project continues smaller efforts of an ecological restoration initiative that will: (1) remove woody invasives, (2) control herbaceous invasives, (3) foliar spray woody invasive re-sprouts, and (4) conduct prescribed burns.

Julie Seydell Johnson presented and discussed this project.

Review and Comments:

Larry Wilson: I like that this is part of a bigger plan, I like the opportunity to blend in river experience as well as improve the natural area. Very good application.

Terry Dahms: This is a very good project, adjacent to Terry Trueblood. It has native woodland (or close to it). It makes sense to take the next step and restore it. There are some wetlands in there which are rather unique.

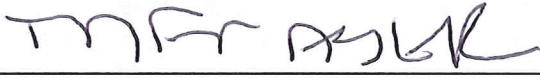
Brad Freidhof: Those are likely all remnant oxbows.

Sherri Proud: Based on other parks I've seen this happen to, this will really open the woods up for use, people will feel safer, this will be one more wonderful recreational piece to Terry Trueblood. Any time we can allow our native species to flourish is a good investment.

Lisa G-D: This is a good experience to get a lot of newbies to use the area, it makes it much more part of the community and accessible.

Brad Freidof: Thanks to Juli and the City of Iowa City, we are really doing a great job of embracing the river and its ebbs and flows. These opportunities are really encouraging our residents to embrace and education of our community. Great educational opportunity.

Linda: This is a great opportunity to expand Terry Trueblood Park, it's a very active park. That part of town is growing as well, which makes this project very attractive.

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Project: City of Iowa City and Project GREEN application for Ashton House Park improvements

Presented by: Julie Seydell Johnson

Amount of request: \$250,472

Project description: Project GREEN Gardens at the Historic Ned Ashton House

The City of Iowa City and Project GREEN (Growing to Reach Environmental Excellence Now) a non-profit organization in Iowa City advocating and implementing city-wide public space site improvement projects, request REAP funding for the following site improvements at the Historic Ned Ashton House site: flood plain reforestation; porous paving north parking area; walkway from north parking area to lower level of historic house; walkway bollard lighting; landscaping to screen parking area from neighbors; benches; interpretive signage; site identification and north site entry development; refuse and recycling bin enclosure.

#### Review and Comments:

Brad: This matches other projects the City of Iowa City and Project GREEN have done. I love to have these facilities that are ahead of their time; a building site that allows flooding to flow through there, it has native plantings that withstand flood waters are great to beautify the area and provide education of the residents in the area and the community.

Terry Dahms: Iowa City was very fortunate to acquire this property, they have done a great job restoring and redeveloping, making it a very desirable place to go. It's a hidden gem. This starts to leverage what we have in the area and works to keep this whole area moving forward. I fully endorse.

Lisa G-D: I like that it makes the river accessible. In a lot of ways we are cut off from the river, but this gives the community more access to it. Nature and water is a good thing.

Larry Wilson: Like that people can go down to the water, interface with the water. I would like to see future plans to incorporate interpretive signage to help with education. This is a very good project. I'm glad we're doing something for historical purposes.

(General discussion on how past flood waters have affected the area and it held up pretty well.)

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Project: City of Lone Tree application for Dougherty Park Prairie Creek improvements

Presented by: Tyler Baird

Amount of request: \$10,500

Project description:

Dougherty Park improvements will include drainage work at the origin of Prairie Creek, pedestrian bridge replacement, and prairie establishment in a difficult to maintain turf area. Establishment of prairie will create pollinator habitat and education opportunities. Prairie will filter runoff to reduce sedimentation at a problem area under the vehicular and pedestrian bridges. The current 50' pedestrian bridge needs replacement and is an important connection for an entire neighborhood and on a route to school.

Tyler Baird discussed this project.

Review and Comments:

Brad: I love to see new projects coming to this committee. I notice there is not a lot of prairie in Lone Tree, and with the school is right up the road, this is an opportunity for the town of Lone Tree to start addressing stormwater runoff, they don't really have a plan in place. The retirement housing drains right through the park and out into the agricultural fields, so this is a great opportunity to address water that is coming off the community. I suggest looking for patterns, since you don't have much money, try to get other partners. We do have pollinators that are having a hard time (bees, butterflies, etc.) and you're in the heart of agriculture for Johnson County, and by providing that respite for migrating pollinators is excellent. I'd encourage you to address the drainage area by planting a heavy, diverse mix of forbes to address the volatile weather (drought followed by floods, etc.). The community will really enjoy this. Thumbs up.


Lisa G-D: I suggest looking into the Monarch Research Project in Marion for ideas. I recently attended a joint meeting with Lone Tree and was impressed to see that this small community is very invested, there is a lot of buy-in from the community who wants to maintain and grow the town, make the town more inviting. The drainage issue is on the community mind, it came up a lot in that joint meeting. I'm excited about Lone Tree and their positive attitude, plus there are new businesses in town, so it is growing. This is a southern gem.



Sherrri: I like the access and replacing the bridge, having access plays right into this project. It is exciting to embrace prairie restoration as an improvement to the park.

Larry: I like a lot of things about this project. The fact that it's for a small town, I like to support a small town for these projects. This will be very handy for education purposes as it's right by the river. The safety issue of bridge will be addressed.

Linda: I think this is an excellent project. Lone Tree is one of the only schools that has an FFA program, and that ties in very nicely. I've worked with Tyler since he came on board a few years ago, and he does a fabulous job with the design of native plants.

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Project: City of Solon application for Solon Recreation and Nature Center improvements

Presented by: Cami Rasmussen

Amount of request:

Project description:

The Solon Recreation and Nature Area is a 57 acre city park on Solon's west side known locally as the SRNA. This area is home to various recreation fields and courts, shelters facilities, wetlands area, 1-mile trail surrounding the park and the entrance to the Lake Macbride Trail and Hoover Trail. Our project reflects improvements to the SRNA and adjacent areas to improve lighting, trail connections and user amenities.

Cami Rasmussen discussed this project.

Review and Comments:

Brad: I love this idea as we're going to be completing the Hoover Trail which will connect Ely, Solon, Cedar Rapids. We think this will be a very popular destination. I'm very supportive. This provides linkages with trails, this is what the Board of Supervisors wants to see, more rural linkages. This will create economic opportunity to bring folks to downtown Solon, etc. I look forward to seeing how this project shapes up. This will help link up to housing developments in the area.

Larry: This is a hub for several trails, good place to spend money, important connections. I like the project and intent, but not enough details available now.

LGDD: This is a continuation of the splash pad, the trail head I like. It will appeal to the new demographics of Solon, which has changed dramatically. It will draw that demographic outdoors to take part in the community. Neat wildlife in the area. It's a beautiful area I'd like to see more people see it. I support it.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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