

07/01/15

### Northwest Iowa Sierra Group Meeting

Attendees: Jeanne Bockholt, Bob Fritzmeier, Merci Earth, Carrie Radloff, Mary Loa, Dennis Van Maanen, Caroline Carlson, Eileen Kenyon.

Bob received detailed information from Mike Owen with the Iowa Policy Project regarding the "Choose Two" proposal previously presented by David Osterberg. Bob encouraged us to let our legislators know that we are in support of this proposal to reduce nutrient/pollutants in our streams and ponds.

Jeanne stated that she has done some research and discovered that the Iowa Sierra Club has clean water as one of their focuses and sees the state level Executive Committee as a resource and guide for us at the local level as we pursue activism.

Carrie Radloff offered that SIMPCO had begun, but discontinued a stream mapping project. Jeanne will contact Kathie Pfaffle at SIMPCO to learn more. (7/6/2015 Kathie offered to check DNR website)

### RE: Volunteer Water Testing Training

A letter was drafted and shared for comment which would be sent to Sierra Club members in the counties in the Northwest Iowa Sierra Group.

The letter refers to training which would be held in June 2016. However, Caroline Carlson suggested that we approach lowater with a request for a training to be held in western Iowa yet this year as it appears we already have the minimum ten members who would like to attend.

On another topic, Neila Seaman has instructed Jeanne regarding Northwest Iowa Sierra Group members receiving updates from the state level Sierra Club. Neila states that she would need verification that the information she sends out would go to Sierra Club members only.

Caroline Carlson suggested that Geo Survey would be a reliable resource for maps of tested and untested waterways; there may be a minimal fee.

Bob wonders if there is continuity in testing; that is, a set schedule to test water. He feels we need to know that before sending out the letter, survey, and promotional third page (see next paragraph) as we consider organizing a 2015 workshop.

Jeanne recommends adding a third page to the letter inviting NW IA Sierrans to indicate their level of interest in water testing training/volunteering. The third page would identify ourselves and "pitch" our local Facebook page, website, and events. Then they would be aware that we have regular meetings and communicate to us what their needs may be to either join us or to form their own sub groups.

There are 230 Sierra Club members within the Northwest Iowa Sierra Group counties. In order to recruit water-testing volunteers, Carrie Radloff suggested that she would invite non-members by e-mail. She further suggested that Sierra Club members have the option to e-mail their responses rather than return them by US Postal Service. Eileen will change the response page to reflect that ability.

#### Action Steps:

1. Bob will contact Mary Skopec at lowater to check on the possibility of organizing a 2015 workshop to train water testers.
2. Meanwhile, we will continue to refine the draft letter to Sierra Club members.
  - a. A survey may be added as part of a third page. Carrie Radloff and Jeanne will draft it.
  - b. A response deadline date/length of time will be added. Eileen will include this in the letter.
  - c. The monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday meeting of the local members can be used to recruit attendees for training. Bob and Eileen can present this.
  - d. At the next monthly 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday meeting, Bob will present support of the Iowa Policy Project's "Choose Two" program in hopes of getting it to Iowa legislators for consideration of a new law restricting nutrient/pollutants from entering Iowa's waterways. We anticipate spending 35 minutes on this and general Water Team activities. Bob can present and Eileen will add notes.
3. Caroline Carlson and Mary Loa will obtain Geo Survey maps of streams and ponds.
4. At some point we will need to form a phone calling tree in order to follow up the letter to tabulate the survey and answer questions. Each of us would be responsible to call 15-20 people.

Bob announced that Dave Osterberg will speak at an even in Fort Dodge next Wednesday, July 8, 2015. Bob also wondered if Dave could come to Sioux City in the future. Jeanne will contact Robin Kash regarding the possibility of getting a video made for our use. Jeanne states that we have other DVDs to view which can be shown to a group of us or loaned out to individuals.

The next meeting of the Water Team was set for August 12, 2015 at Vangarde Arts at 3:30 p.m. Jeanne stated after the meeting that it could be moved to a later time to save members on parking meter expense. If so, that will be relayed to members ahead of time.