

# Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority (MCWMA)

## Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday March 28, 2017, 3:00pm-5:00pm

Farmer's Savings Bank & Trust Community Room (401 B Ave, Vinton, IA)

## Meeting Minutes

**Board Members Present:** Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD), Les Beck (Linn County), Zach Parmater (Vinton), Phil Schuppert (Waterloo), Dan Bangasser (City of Grundy Center), David Sturch (City of Cedar Falls), Brian Wirtz (City of Evansdale), Chris Schwartz (Black Hawk County), Cara Matteson (City of Cedar Rapids), Sherman Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Dave Neil (City of LaPorte City), Becky Pint (City of Raymond), Jeremy Sills (Benton SWCD).

**Others Present:** Karl Gesch (Iowa Soybean Association), Nick Longbuncco (The Nature Conservancy), Calvin Wolter (Iowa DNR), Al Schafbuch (Tama SWCD), Greg Waltson (ISU Extension), Meaghan Anderson (ISU Extension), Jamie Benning (ISU Extension), Ryan Drollette (ISU Extension), Larry Jones (NRCS), Tariq Baloch (City of Cedar Rapids), Felicia Campbell (IDALS), Nancy Stowe (Houston Engineering), Jacob Tjaden (INRCOG), Mark Happel (CWCA).

### MCWMA Board of Directors Meeting

#### I. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 3:01pm by Chairperson Todd Wiley.

#### II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Motion by Sherman Lundy to approve minutes from board meeting 1-12-2017. Jeremy Sills seconded motion. Motion carried.

#### III. Watershed Coordinator Introduction and Report

- Chairperson Wiley announced that Adam Rodenberg was hired as Project Coordinator. Adam is an employee of Benton County and began work on 2-21-2017. Adam is housed at the East Central Iowa Council of Governments office in Cedar Rapids.
  - o Adam Rodenberg provided a brief introduction and distributed a written summary of activities since being hired.
- Discussion was held on designing a MCWMA logo for us on business cards, letter head, and other outreach materials.
  - o The Flood Center suggested that the IWA logo could be used on common marketing pieces.
  - o The consensus of the Board was to have Les Beck, Greg Walston (ISU Extension), and Adam Rodenberg move forward with logo design and bring 2 or 3 options for the full Board to choose from.

#### **IV. Iowa Watershed Approach Update**

- Ashlee Johannes reported on the Flood Resilience Survey Results.
- Antonio Arenas from IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering gave a presentation on the Hydrologic Assessment for the Middle Cedar.
  - o Hydrologic modeling/assessment will be completed by spring 2018.
    - Goal of hydrologic model is to quantify the impact of new and existing BMP's.
    - Discussion held on how model works and what practices are included.
    - Model takes into account existing and potential BMP's as well as information from the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) tool (<http://northcentralwater.org/acpf>).
  - o 3 new hydraulic water sensors are going to be put in place within the Middle Cedar by summer 2017.
    - 1 sensor will be deployed in qualified area, and other 2 in data gap areas.
    - Potentially 2-3 more sensors in future.
    - The Middle Cedar WMA will help find landowners willing to host the hydrologic stations.

#### **V. Iowa Watershed Approach Partners Update**

- Stephan Kalkhoff from the USGS gave presentation on Water Quality Monitoring.
  - o Average flow rate (cubic feet/second) has increased over the past 80 years.
  - o Nitrate loss has increased in the Upper Cedar River (25,000 ton/acre) and Middle Cedar River (16,000 ton/acre).
- Felicia Campbell from IDALS gave update on the role she plays in the MCWMA.
  - o Felicia handed out information about the project implementation process and likely questions from landowners that board members should be considering before the WMA moves from watershed planning into implementation.
  - o An additional 3 or 4 more HUC-12 watersheds could potentially be added into the targeted work area.
  - o Jeremy Sills offered to chair a subcommittee involving the SWCD offices to develop a process for the project implementation. Adam, Felicia, and Todd also offered to serve on the committee.

#### **VI. Watershed Planning Services**

- Technical Team Update
  - o David Sturch gave update from first technical team meeting.
    - Teleconference was held on 2/28/2017 to discuss the development of the RFP and Scope of Work.
    - The Technical Team asked for authorization to develop the RFP, complete the review, and present a consultant contract for Board approval. The consensus of the Board was to give that authorization.
- Resource Concerns/Planning Priorities
  - o Fencil asked WMA board members to bring their top 3 priorities/concerns to address in the watershed plan to the meeting. Adam will continue efforts to collect those concerns.

**VII. Other Business**

- Cara Matteson announced that the City of Cedar Rapids was awarded WQI funds to implement stormwater BMP's in a street project.
- March 30, Iowa Groundwater Association spring meeting held at DMACC Conference Center, Newton, Iowa.
- March 31, Upper Cedar River Watershed Coalition meeting held at the Mitchell County Conservation Board Nature Center.
- April 11, Nick Longbucco from the Nature Conservancy announced that he is getting a bus together to travel to Des Moines to lobby for "Fund the Trust Fund". Individuals interested in attending should contact Nick at [nicholas.longbucco@tnc.org](mailto:nicholas.longbucco@tnc.org).
- June 8, Strip-till field day to be held in Holland.
- July 19, Cover Crop field day to be held at Grundy County Fair.
- Indian Creek Nature Center is holding workshops on urban stormwater practices on Tuesday evenings from 5-7 starting March 28<sup>th</sup> and ending May 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- Clark Porter
  - o Organizing a Coalition for Black Hawk Creek Watershed.
  - o April 7, first planning meeting to be held at the Grundy County Conservation Headquarters, Morrison, Iowa starting at 1:30pm.

**VIII. Public Comment**

- none

**IX. Next Meeting**

- Next MCWMA Board Meeting will be held on July 25, 2017 from 3-5pm. tentative location set at Farmer's Savings Bank & Trust Community Room (401 B Ave, Vinton, IA)

**X. Adjourn**

- Dave Neil motioned to adjourn. Cara Matteson 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion to adjourn carried.