

**Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority
Organizational Meeting**

**Wednesday, September 16, 2015 • 5:30 pm
Vinton City Hall (110 West 3rd Street, Vinton IA)**

MEETING SUMMARY

1. Call to Order – meeting chaired by Supervisor John Miller, Black Hawk County
2. Introductions – see attached attendance list. There were 11 eligible entities represented at the meeting: Benton, Black Hawk, and Tama Counties; Cities of Waterloo, Cedar Falls, Cedar Rapids, Hudson, La Porte City, Vinton; Black Hawk and Benton Soil & Water Conservation Districts.
3. Background: What is a Watershed Management Authority (WMA)?
 - a. Overview of WMAs in Iowa - see attached presentation from Mary Beth Stevenson of IDNR with general information about WMAs: how to form a WMA, duties and responsibilities of WMAs, current WMAs in Iowa, benefits of WMAs. The Iowa Code specifically prohibits WMAs from taking land by eminent domain and WMAs do not have taxing authority.
 - b. Case Study: Upper Cedar WMA – Sherman Lundy with the Black Hawk Soil & Water Conservation District explained how the Upper Cedar works, some of their on-going projects, and how the group has been a benefit to the communities of the watershed
4. Middle Cedar WMA
 - a. Map of watershed area – *see attached map*
 - b. Organizational documents
 - i. Chapter 28E agreement – The Middle Cedar WMA could use the Upper Cedar 28e agreement as a template, as it has already been reviewed and approved by county attorneys as well as the State Attorney General’s Office. *Copy of the Upper Cedar 28e is attached here.*
 - ii. By-laws – These will be drafted and approved as a first order of business once the WMA is officially formed
 - c. Organizational sub-committee: Several people volunteered to assist with reviewing the 28e agreement and will be contacted directly to follow up.
 - d. Timeline for organizing the Middle Cedar WMA: The goal is to be officially formed in early 2016.
5. WMA-related Funding Opportunities: There was a discussion on the types of grant opportunities that are available to groups that are organized. One goal of a WMA is to help keep track of funding opportunities as they arise, and to develop a plan that identifies potential projects and targets high-priority areas so that resources can be utilized in an efficient manner.
 - a. National Disaster Resiliency Competition (U.S. Dep’t Housing and Urban Development)
 - b. IDNR – WMA Comprehensive Planning Grant
6. Next Steps
 - a. A follow-up meeting was set for Wednesday, October 21 at 5:30 pm, at Vinton City Hall

- b. Each potential member should visit with their respective supervisors, councils, and soil & water commissioners. If possible, it would be helpful for each entity to approve a non-binding resolution indicating support of the Middle Cedar WMA. *An example resolution is attached to this email.*
- c. Before the next meeting, the Organizational Sub-committee will work on developing the draft 28e agreement, which will be discussed in detail at the meeting on October 21.

7. Adjournment

Meeting Attendees

NAME	AFFILIATION	EMAIL
Michael Miller	Hudson	mmiller@cityofhudson.com
Donald Frese	Benton BOS	donaldchery@southlope.net (?)
Todd Wiley	Benton BOS	4tdwiley@gmail.com
Kathy Bierman	City of Cedar Rapids	k.bierman@cedar-rapids.org
Barb Wagner	City of Cedar Rapids	b.wagner@cedar-rapids.org
Sidney Noyce	INRCOG	snoyce@inrcog.org
Brian Schoon	INRCOG	bschoon@inrcog.org
David Sturch	City of Cedar Falls	David.sturch@cedarfalls.com
Mary Jo Hainstock	Vinton-Shellsburg School	Maryjo.hainstock@vscsd.org
Terry Hertle	Benton BOS	tlhjk@southslope.net
Zach Parmater	Vinton City Council / Benton CCB	zparmater@bentoncountyparks.com
John Watson	Mayor – Vinton	watsonjohnr@yahoo.com
Nathan Wrage	Tama CCB Chair	Nwrage63@gmail.com
Al Schafbach	Benton-Tama Nutrient Reduction Project	Schafbach69@gmail.com
Vern Fish	Black Hawk CCB	vernfish@aol.com
Steve Hershner	City of CR – Utilities Dep’t	s.hershner@cedar-rapids.org
Alicia Presto	ECICOG	Alicia.presto@ecicog.org
Doug Elliot	ECICOG	Doug.elliott@ecicog.org
Nick Longbucco	Nature Conservancy	Nicholas.longbucco@tnc.org
Chris Ward	City of Vinton	cward@vintoniowa.net
Phil Schuppert	City of Waterloo	Phillip.schuppert@waterloo-ia.org
David Neil	Mayor – La Porte City	dvneil@lpctel.net
Sherman Lundy	Black Hawk SWCD	sherml@bmcaggregates.com
Greg Walston	ISU Extension – Benton	gwalston@iastate.edu
Josh Balk	Dry Run Creek Watershed / Black Hawk SWCD	Joshua.balk@ia.nacdnet.net
Shannon Mitchell	Benton SWCD	Shannon.Mitchell@ia.nacdnet.net
Mary Beth Stevenson	Iowa DNR	Marybeth.stevenson@dnr.iowa.gov
Matthew Purdy	Benton CCB	mpurdy@bentoncountyparks.com
John Miller	Black Hawk BOS	jmiller@co.black-hawk.ia.us
Jim Brown	Benton NRCS	James.Brown@ia.usda.gov