

Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, February 1, 2018 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

La Porte City Community Center
(300 1st Street, La Porte City, IA 50651)

Minutes

Board Members Present: Todd Wiley (Benton County), Clayton Ohrt (Buchanan County), Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD), Dean McKenna (Tama SWCD), Brian Wirtz (City of Evansdale), Wayne Castle (City of Waterloo), Cara Matteson (City of Cedar Rapids), Steve Jordan (City of Hudson), Lawrence Green (Franklin SWCD), David Sturch (City of Cedar Falls), Jeremy Sills (Benton SWCD), Clark Porter (Grundy County), Chris Schwartz (Black Hawk County), Les Beck (Linn County), Nathan Wragge (Tama County), Mike Johnson (City of La Porte City), Sherman Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD).

Others Present: Adam Rodenberg (MCWMA), Jennifer Fencil (ECICOG), Sean McMahon (IAWA), Jack Boyer (Tama County SWCD Alternate), Valerie Decker (University of Iowa C.E.A.), Nate Anderson (WHKS), Jessica Turba (HSEMD), Dan Gates (City of Hudson Alternate), Asih Asikin-Garmager (University of Iowa C.E.A.), Karl Gesch (Iowa Soybean Association), Josh Balk (Black Hawk SWCD Alternate), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center), Shelby Williams (Benton/Tama Project), Clint Geldine (Benton County NRCS), Mario Fenu (Houston Engineering), Greg Walston (Benton County ISU Extension), Nick Longbucco (TNC), Linda Laylin (Black Hawk County Alternate).

MCWMA Board of Directors Meeting

I. Call to Order & Introductions

- Meeting was called to order at 3:05pm by Chairperson Todd Wiley.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting – October 19, 2017

- Fred Abels motioned to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on October 19, 2017. Clark Porter 2nd motion. Motion carried.

III. Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance Funding

- Chairperson Wiley described the process the Executive Committee took to review various options for the IAWA Funding. It was the recommendation of the Executive Committee to the Board that the MCWMA pursue a contract with an existing firm or individual rather than create a new position. The contracted services will focus on increasing adoption of conservation practices in the underserved parts of the watershed.
- Clayton Ohrt moved to pursue a contract with an existing firm or individual. Steve Jordan 2nd motion. Motion carried.
 - o Discussion held on how the selection process will be structured.
 - o Sherman Lundy motioned to give the executive committee final contracting authority and keep the Board in the loop via email. Fred Abels 2nd motion. Motion carried.

IV. Iowa Watershed Approach Implementation Update

a. Outreach/Engagement

- Rodenberg gave an update on implementation efforts in the targeted subwatersheds to receive implementation dollars. A finalized application, landowner agreement, and maintenance agreement with the required CDBG language have been developed.
- Direct mailed 1,153 postcards to landowners who own 20 or more acres of land in the targeted subwatersheds. Had approximately 30 responses to the postcard, have met with 15 landowners, and have 8 active applications. Plan to host 3 landowner meetings, one in each of the three eligible counties (Tama, Benton, and Buchanan) within the next 2 months.
- Clayton Ohrt asked to have postcard sent to Board members and to notify the Board of upcoming meetings and other outreach efforts.

b. Engineering Services

- Rodenberg described the process of developing the Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services. Received a total of 11 responses and interviewed the top 2 firms. It was the recommendation of the Technical Team to move forward with contracting with Benton County and the team of WHKS/EOR.
 - Sherman Lundy motioned to accept the recommendation of the Technical Team to move forward with a contract between Benton County and WHKS/EOR for engineering services. David Sturch 2nd motion. Motioned carried.
 - Nate Anderson, project manager from WHKS introduced himself.

V. Middle Cedar By-Laws

a. Election of Officers

- Sherman Lundy motioned to keep current slate of officers on for 2nd term. 2nd by Dean McKenna. Les Beck and Cara Matteson voted nay, all the rest voted aye. Motion carried.
 - Discussion held to develop a nomination committee to address by-law requirements of rotating officer positions between board members from City/County/SWCD.

b. Amendments

- Chairperson Wiley described the issue of obtaining and maintaining a quorum to conduct business. Jennifer Fencil described how other organizations address quorum issue with large boards.
- Discussion held on various options to address quorum issue.
- Motion by Clark Porter to clarify the by-laws that in an absence of a quorum, to give the Executive Committee the powers to conduct board business. 2nd by Les Beck. Motion carried.
 - Chairperson Wiley asked for member entities to appoint/reappoint a director and an alternate to address quorum issue.

VI. WMA's of Iowa discussion

- Rodenberg updated the board on the current status of the WMA's of Iowa. The organization is not officially filed with the State and are currently drafting by-laws and electing officers. The WMA's of Iowa will be hosting its first Annual Meeting on February 21st at Otter Creek Lake & Park (2283 Park Rd, Toledo, IA 52342).

VII. Watershed Management Plan Update

- Pat Conrad provided a power point presentation for the watershed plan update. The presentation highlighted the results from the first two open house meetings.

VIII. Iowa Watershed Approach Partner Updates

a. Hydrologic Assessment Update

- o Antonio Arenas provided a power point presentation about historical trends of flood damages in Iowa compared to the nation and comparing Iowa's counties.

b. Flood Resilience Team Update

- o Ashley Johannes provided a power point presentation on the work the Flood Resilience Team has been doing and hopes to accomplish in the next year.

c. Center for Evaluation and Assessment

- o Valerie Decker provided a summary from the survey filled out at the last Board of Directors meeting.

IX. Other Business

- Jennifer Fencl provided an update on HF 2008 that would require WMA's to change their names.
- Kate Giannini from the Iowa Flood Center introduced herself as the new Iowa Watershed Approach Communications Specialist.
- Rodenberg provided an update on the University of Minnesota Research Project. Nick Jordan will be hosting an event on the future of agriculture in the Middle Cedar Watershed and is requesting the MCWMA co-sponsor the event. There would be no financial requirements from the MCWMA.
 - o Motion by Chris Schwartz to co-sponsor upcoming event. 2nd by Clark Porter. Motion carried.
- Discussion held on the importance of developing a Mission Statement. Board members asked for examples of Mission Statements at the next meeting.
- Discussion held on water quality and impaired streams. Requested that Rodenberg invite local health department officials to meetings and events.
- Paul Miller has been hired as IDALS new Urban Conservationist.
- Clark Porter announced that the Black Hawk Creek Water and Soil Coalition will be having a meeting on February 8 from 6-8pm at the Grundy County Conservation Center in Morrison, IA to discuss weeds, markets, and water quality.

X. Public Comment

- Nick Longbucco from The Nature Conservancy described the 4R Plus Partnership and their efforts to increase education on conservation.

XI. Next Meeting

XII. The next MCWMA Board of Directors meeting will be held on Thursday April 5 from 3-5pm at the La Porte City Community Center.

XIII. Adjourn

- By the authority of the Chair of the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08pm.