**Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority (MCWMA)**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, January 12, 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Farmer's Savings Bank and Trust Community Room (401 B Ave, Vinton, IA 52349)

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:** Cara Matteson (Cedar Rapids), Brian Wirtz (Evansdale), Mike Miller (Hudson), Chris Even (Jesup), Zach Parmater (Vinton), Phil Schuppert (Waterloo), Todd Wiley (Benton Co.), Chris Schwartz (Black Hawk Co.), Clayton Ohrt (Buchannan Co.), Les Beck (Linn Co.), Jeremy Sills (Benton SWCD), Sherm Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Jim Lindaman (Butler SWCD), Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD), Dean McKenna (Tama SWCD)

**Others Present:**  Mike Kuntz & Tariq Baloch (Cedar Rapids), Scott Hansen (Benton EMA), Al Schafbuch (Benton FB), Matt Clous (MSA), Kasey Hutchinson (Shive Hattery), Brian Schoon (INRCOG), Shane Wolf (Black Hawk SWCD), Shelby Williams (Benton SWCD), Jack Boyer (Tama SWCD), Larry Jones (NRCS), Jennifer Ness (USDA-FAS), Clint Geldine (USDA-NRCS), Adam Wilke (ISU Extension), Greg Walston (Benton ISU Extension), Fred Schuster (Senator Grassley’s office), Michael Keefer (Representative Rob Blum’s office), Kymm Barnes & Steve Kalkhoff (USGS), Mitch Finn & Jane Drapeaux (HACAP), Craig Just, Breanna Shea & Cristina Munoz (Iowa Flood Center), Tom Oswald (Homeland Security & Emergency Management), Jeff Geerts (Iowa Economic Development Authority), Mary Beth Stevenson (IDNR), Jennifer Fencl (ECICOG)

**MCWMA Board of Directors Meeting**

1. **Call to order**

Meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm by Chairperson Wiley.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion by Lundy, second by Parmater, to approve the October 27, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

1. **Iowa Watershed Approach (IWA) Update (Resiliency)**

Craig Just with the Iowa Flood Center (IFC) introduced the flood resilience component of the IWA along with the flood resilience team and partner organizations.

* Define flood resilience and help communities decide who is and who is not flood resilient.
* Resilience involves mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery. The resilience program will look at how these actions work together and what resources should be looked at that will inform these actions.
* Communities must have hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans to be eligible for Hazard Mitigation grant programs. These plans, along with the watershed plan, will lead to a flood resilience action plan.
* All of these plans will work to inform and build off one another to provide a list of comprehensive resources and tools available to the watershed.
* A website and online visualization tool has been developed for the project to share information. The visualization tool allows the user to customize watershed resources.

A few questions from the group were addressed.

1. **The state has focused on WQI and the nutrient reduction strategy. How do all of these projects work in coordination with one another?** There are several projects happening in the Middle Cedar watershed, but most are not as flood focused as the IWA. The built projects of the IWA will analyze benefits to flood reduction and water-quality improvement and the resilience piece seeks to fill in gaps in understanding. One long-term goal would be for HUD to understand that upstream built projects will help to benefit downstream communities. We want to change their way of thinking of geo-political boundaries.
2. **How do you connect spatial location of mitigation practices and the improvements in resilience or decrease in vulnerability?** The watershed modeling will help us develop scenarios to see where practices should be implemented that will have the most impact.
3. **How did we determine low to moderate-income communities?** There is threshold data that helped to determine that. Historically, LMI populations have not been thought of during flood mitigation or recovery. For the IWA, HUD’s requirement was to make sure the work we do is benefiting these LMI areas.
4. **How many years will the grant money work for you?** The IWA is a 5-year project, but we expect the WMA and watershed plan to live on and drive future work in the watershed.
5. **How often do we update flood maps?**  Statewide floodplain maps were completed in December, but staff remains to maintain and update them.
6. **Iowa Watershed Approach Partner Update – none**
7. **Watershed Coordinator Position – Hiring Committee**

Wiley announced that the project coordinator job description was released after the last WMA meeting. Twelve people applied for the position and four applicants will be interviewed. The committee will notify the board of their decision. Hiring committee includes Zach Parmater, Jeremy Sills, Sherm Lundy, Mary Beth Stevenson, Jennifer Fencl, Cara Matteson, and Todd Wiley.

1. **Watershed Planning Services – Establish Technical Team**

Wiley began the discussion about the development of a watershed plan and asked Stevenson to give an overview of what is included. A watershed plan collects baseline data such as land-use, water-quality, and stream health and establishes goals and strategies for improvement. Wiley suggested the formation of a technical committee that would provide guidance and oversight for the watershed plan. The first task will be to work on the request for proposals to contract for planning services and manage the selection process. IWA funded partners can also provide assistance in creating the plan. Motion by Miller, second by Sills to appoint Cara Matteson, Sherman Lundy, and David Sturch to the technical team and include a representative from IDNR, USGS, and IFC, bringing in other expertise as needed. Motion carried.

1. **Other business**
2. **Elect a Secretary/Treasurer**

Wiley asked for a Board member to serve in the Secretary/Treasurer position on the Executive Committee. Motion by Lundy, second by Parmater to elect Jeremy Sills as the Secretary/Treasurer. Motion carried.

1. **City of Cedar Rapids WQI application**

Matteson reported that the City of Cedar Rapids applied for a WQI grant to include stormwater BMPs into a street project. The outreach component of the project would organize an urban/agriculture field day. The city requested a letter of support that committed the Watershed Coordinator to participate in the rural portion of the field day. Motion by Lundy, second by Lindaman to provide a letter of support for the City of Cedar Rapids WQI application.

1. **Public Comment – none**
2. **Next Meeting – March 21, 2017 at 3:30 pm at same location (since changed)**
3. **Adjourn meeting at 4:45**