**Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

October 22, 2020 3:00-5:00pm

Virtual Meeting

**Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members Present:**Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD), Chris Schwartz (Black Hawk County), Barbara Smith (Grundy County), Mark Pingenot (Benton SWCD), Dean McKenna (Tama SWCD), Tracy Seeman (Benton County), David Neil (City of La Porte City), Wayne Castle (City of Waterloo) Don Shonka (Buchanan County), Sherman Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Dan Bangasser (City of Grundy Center), Maria Perez (City of Cedar Falls), Les Beck (Linn County), Mary Beth Stevenson & Cara Matteson (City of Cedar Rapids), Doug Kaiser (Buchanan SWCD).

**Others Present:**Adam Rodenberg (MCWMA), Andrea Wagner (ISU Student), Hillary Pierce (ISUEO), Jennifer Fencl (ECICOG), Erica Neideigh, Valerie Decker (UI-CEA) Colleen Kinney (IHSEM), Josh Balk (Iowa DNR), Andrew Dunham (UNI-TPC), Jim Jordan (IAWA), Jeff Geerts (IEDA), Jason Gomes (NIAP), Stephanie Lientz (Linn County), Julie Althaus (Buchanan SWCD), Hacer Karamase (UI-CEA), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center).

**Meeting Minutes**

1. **Call to Order & Introductions**

* *Meeting called to order at 3:03pm by Chairperson Abels. Introductions of MCWMA Board Members present and public in attendance.*

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting – November 21, 2019.**

* *Sherman Lundy motioned to approve meeting minutes from MCWMA Board of Directors meeting on November 21, 2019. Chris Schwartz 2nd motion. Motion carried.*

1. **Middle Cedar Watershed Plan (Jennifer Fencl)**

1. Funding Formula Update

Jennifer Fencl provided a recap on the funding discussion to support a $150,000 budget for a full time coordinator and part time admin position. Discussion held on recap presentation. Board requested to see a 1-2 page summary outlining the accomplishments of the organization, coordinator(s), and funding requests based on the approved funding formula. Board members requested a presentation at their respective entities in January after the local election cycles have been completed.

1. Planning budget discussion

~$22,000 left in the Iowa Watershed Approach planning budget. Remaining funds could be used for printing of planning documents, signage, and education and outreach. The Iowa Flood Center is working on developing signage for high visibility project sites associated with the Iowa Watershed Approach project.

1. **Watershed Projects Update**
2. Iowa Watershed Approach (Adam Rodenberg)

Rodenberg provided a written update on the Iowa Watershed Approach activities.

1. North Iowa Agronomy Partners (Jason Gomes)

Gomes provided update on work being done as part of the Technical Assistance contract funded through IAWA. A contract extension is needed due to lack of funding and pandemic issues. Gomes highlighted work through the Soil & Water Outcomes Fund in the Middle Cedar Watershed. An estimated 60,000-70,000 acres of ag land enrolled in cover crops and/or reduced tillage practices in the Middle Cedar Watershed. The City of Cedar Rapids is committed to contribute $400,000 over a two year period for the Soil and Water Outcomes Fund.

1. Benton/Tama Nutrient Reduction Project (Rose Danaher)

Danaher provide an introduction as the IDALS Environmental Specialist overseeing the Benton/Tama project. The Benton/Tama project is based out of the Vinton NRCS field office.

1. Miller Creek (Clark Porter)

No update at this time.

1. Dry Run Creek (Josh Balk)

Balk provided written update.

1. Black Hawk Creek (Faith Luce)

No update at this time.

1. **Partner Updates**
2. City of Cedar Rapids – RCPP Proposal (Mary Beth Stevenson)

Stevenson provided information on a RCPP proposal the City of Cedar Rapids is partnering on entitled, “Source Water Partnership”. If funded, the project will be focused on vulnerable source water issues and providing technical and financial resources to hot spot areas within the Cedar River Watershed.

1. **Other Business**

None at this time.

1. **Public Comment**

Andrea Wagner, a graduate student at Iowa State University provided update on her graduate research on WMA’s and community research and planning. Requested 5-6 volunteers from the Board to participate and comment on the social aspects of the MCWMA.

1. **Next Meeting**

December 17, 2020 from 3-5pm (zoom). Meeting was postponed until the January 20, 2021 from 3-5pm.

1. **Adjourn**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:24 pm.