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

**Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, October 27, 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:** David Sturch (Cedar Falls), Cara Matteson (Cedar Rapids), Dan Bangasser (Grundy Center), Mike Miller (Hudson), Zach Parmater (Vinton), Phil Schuppert (Waterloo), Todd Wiley (Benton Co.), John Miller (Black Hawk Co.), Don Shonka (Buchannan Co.), Stephanie Lientz (Linn Co.), Jeremy Sills (Benton SWCD), Sherm Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Jim Lindaman (Butler SWCD), Lawrence Green (Franklin SWCD), Jack Boyer (Tama SWCD)

**Others Present:**  Al Schafbuch (Benton FB), Matt Clous (MSA), Kasey Hutchinson (Shive Hattery), Jacob Tjaden (INRCOG), Shane Wolf & Josh Balk (Black Hawk SWCD), Shelby Williams (Benton SWCD), Greg Walston (Benton ISU Extension), Erika Hodgson (Vinton resident), Karl Gresch (Iowa Soybean Assoc.), Nancy Thorkildson (Shellsburg), Larry Weber, Breanna Shea & Antonio Arenas (Iowa Flood Center), Ashley Kittle (Tallgrass Prairie Center), Mary Beth Stevenson (IDNR), Jennifer Fencl (ECICOG)

**MCWMA Board of Directors Meeting**

1. **Call to order & Introductions**

Meeting was called to order at 3:32 pm by Chairperson Wiley. The Iowa Watershed Approach Update was moved up on the agenda.

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

Larry Weber with the Iowa Flood Center (IFC) provided the following updates.

* The state has a contract with HUD and lead county contracts are in the works.
* WMAs will be the primary means of communication throughout the project.
* IFC established a project website and is working on a system for real-time data to be shared online.
* The first round of sensors will be deployed in Spring 2017 to collect watershed data, with a second round to follow.
* The next quarterly meeting will focus on the social resilience aspect of the project.

Antonio Arenas with the IFC provided the hydrologic assessment update.

* Research has shown an increase in frequency of flood events.
* Modeling will be used to determine areas for potential projects.
* Using the recent flooding in eastern Iowa, the Cedar River basin exported the same amount of nutrients in one day as the entire state does in one day.

Breanna Shea with the IFC shared a list of service that IFC can provide to the WMAs and counties. A few questions from the group were addressed.

1. Is the IFC putting in new monitoring stations? Yes, the IFC team will present possible sensor locations to the WMA who will decide where they are placed.
2. Is the hydrologic assessment part of the watershed master plan? IFC will run the hydrologic assessment and provide the information to the person writing the watershed plan.
3. **Prairie on Farms Project**

Ashley Kittle described the Prairie on Farms Project that works with landowners to establish prairie strips for infiltration. The project is looking for interested landowners in the Middle Cedar watershed to add prairie to their land. Kittle also shared a list of services that UNI can provide the WMAs and lead counties, including assist in setting up field days or workshops.

1. **Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Motion by John Miller, second by Lundy to approve the June 16, 2016 meeting minutes. Motion carried.

1. **MCWMA 28E Agreement Status**

Fencl reported that two new members signed onto the 28E agreement. Now a total of 25 of the 65 eligible political subdivisions have joined the MCWMA.

1. **Board Member Designation Letters**

Fencl distributed an updated MCWMA Board Member sheet.

1. **Watershed Coordinator Position – Hiring Committee**

Wiley reported that the hiring committee met to discuss the watershed coordinator job description and how and where to employ the person. Benton County concluded that the best option will be to hire the watershed coordinator as a county employee and subcontract with ECICOG to house and oversee. This arrangement is intended to provide guidance to the new hire, while also partnering with the local NRCS offices to ensure project success. Motion by Lundy, second by Sturch to give the hiring committee the authority to proceed with the hiring process and select the best candidate. Motion carried.

1. **Watershed Planning Services Discussion**

Wiley reported that the WMA will have to develop an RFP for planning services. There is a template RFP available through the IWA program to modify. Wiley suggested a small technical committee be established to handle the process and review the proposals. The committee would not have to be made up of Board members. Lundy suggested that the committee include NRCS and SWCD staff members. Motion by Parmater, second by Mike Miller to establish a technical committee for the planning services RFP process. Motion carried.

1. **Other business**
2. Fencl submitted a letter to formally resign as MCWMA Board Secretary to ensure no conflict of interest while ECICOG administers the HUD contract on behalf of Benton County. Motion by Lundy, second by Boyer to accept the letter. Motion carried. Motion by Lundy, second by Sills to appoint Fencl as Recording Secretary to handle administrative duties. Motion carried. The Board requested that election of a Secretary/Treasurer be on the next meeting agenda.
3. **Public Comment – none**
4. **Next Meeting – January 12, 2017 at 3:30 pm in Vinton**
5. **Adjourn meeting at 5:08**