

# **Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority**

## **Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, July 19, 2018 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

La Porte City Community Center  
(300 1<sup>st</sup> Street, La Porte City, IA 50651)

### **Meeting Minutes**

**Board Members Present:** Dean McKenna (Tama SWCD), Jim Lindaman (Butler SWCD), Dick Sloan (Buchanan SWCD), Wayne Castle (City of Waterloo), Dan Bangasser (City of Grundy Center), John Balk (Black Hawk SWCD), Todd Wiley (Benton County), Bob Etzel (Tama County), Chris Schwartz (Black Hawk County), Clark Porter (Grundy County), Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD), David Sturch (City of Cedar Falls), Stephanie Lentz (Linn County), Dave Neil (City of La Porte City), Cara Matteson (City of Cedar Rapids).

**Others Present:** Adam Rodenberg (MCWMA), Jennifer Fencl (ECICOG), Pat Conrad (EOR), Jack Boyer (Tama SWCD Alternate), Larry Jones (Tama County NRCS), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center), Craig Just (Iowa Flood Center), Antonio Arenas (Iowa Flood Center), Keith Schilling (Iowa Geological Survey), Laura Jackson (Tallgrass Prairie Center), Ashley Kittle (Tallgrass Prairie Center), Jim Jordahl (Iowa Ag Water Alliance), Julie Kearney (Center for Evaluation and Assessment), Daniel Gibbons (Linn County Conservation), Jim Marwedel (Iowa HSEMD), Mary Beth Stevenson (Iowa DNR), Pat Conrad (Emmons & Olivier Resources), Brett Emmons (Emmons & Olivier Resources), Jeff Jensen (Trees Forever).

#### **I. Call to Order & Introductions**

- Meeting was called to order at 3:09pm by Chairperson Todd Wiley.

#### **II. Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 1, 2018**

- Dave Neil motioned to approve the minutes from the Board meeting held on April 1, 2018. Wayne Castle 2<sup>nd</sup> motion. Motion carried.

#### **III. WMA Mission Statement**

- Discussion held on potential mission and vision statements. Revised Mission and Vision statements will be sent out to the full Board for comment ahead of next board meeting.

#### **IV. By-Laws Amendments**

- Jen Fencl presented final changes to the By-Laws.
- Dan Bangasser motioned to approve the By-Law amendments. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Schwartz. Motion carried.

## V. Executive Committee Update

### a. IAWA Technical Assistance Contract Selection

- Todd Wiley gave brief summary of the Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance funding source and explanation of the project.
- Cara Matteson described the Request for Proposals and interview process. It was the recommendation of the technical assistance committee to move to negotiate a contract with North Iowa Agronomy Partners.
  - o Motion by Chris Schwartz to negotiate a contract with North Iowa Agronomy Partners for Technical Assistance in the Middle Cedar Watershed. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Clark Porter. Jeremy Sills abstained. Motion carried.
- Jeremy Sills introduced North Iowa Agronomy Partners.

## VI. Project Coordinator Update (Adam Rodenberg)

### a. Projects update

- Rodenberg gave report on the One Water Summit held in Minneapolis, Minnesota July 9-12. Main takeaway was the work the University of Minnesota is doing to develop new cash crops such as perennial wheatgrass and winter annuals as well as market development for the new crops.
- Rodenberg described development of 1<sup>st</sup> bid packet of projects for fall construction.

### b. HUD Program changes

#### i. Cost-share rate increase

- Rodenberg described the process the IEDA is taking to increase the cost-share rate from 75% to 90%.

#### ii. Target area expansion

- Rodenberg described the process of selecting additional HUC-12 watersheds to include in the implementation area as part of the HUD project. Rodenberg recommended Fourmile Creek (Tama County), Pratt Creek and Roger's Park (Benton County) be added to the implementation area as part of the HUD project.
- Dean McKenna motioned to approve the additional HUC-12 watersheds to be added to implementation area. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jim Lindaman. Motion carried.

## VII. Planning Team Update (Pat Conrad)

- Pat Conrad gave update on the Middle Cedar Watershed planning efforts. Conrad described the 3 phases of planning (Issues Identification, Goal Setting, and Implementation) and where the Middle Cedar project is at. The planning effort is on

schedule. The HUC-12 watershed plans are being drafted, case studies are progressing, and the hazard mitigation plan is being drafted as well.

- The next steps in the planning process is to host a fall open house to report to the public to gather more input and describe the progress made.
- Conrad provided an overview of the watershed planning meeting held prior to the Board Meeting at La Porte City, City Hall. Conrad described the “what if” exercise conducted and the preliminary results.

## **VIII. Partner Updates**

### **a. Iowa Flood Center (Antonio Arenas)**

- Antonio Arenas gave a short presentation on the hydrology data collected for the Middle Cedar Watershed model.
- Arenas held a short discussion on the presentation and took a few questions.

### **b. Flood Resilience Team Update (Craig Just/Ashlee Johannes)**

- Keith Schilling from the Iowa Geological Survey reported back on a grant received to conduct geological investigations and mapping in 2 quadrangles in the Mud Creek watershed in Benton County near Vinton. Drilling will take place over the next year. Schilling is looking for interested landowners.
- Craig Just from the Resilience Team at the Iowa Flood Center gave an update on the Flood Resilience Action plan being developed for the Middle Cedar Watershed Plan.
- Craig Just described a water quality EPA grant proposal being developed to secure funds that could be used as match for the HUD project in the Mud Creek watershed in Benton County. Just requested a Letter of Support for the grant proposal.

### **c. Center for Evaluation and Assessment**

- Julie Kearney handed out a survey.

## **IX. Other Business**

- Jennifer Fencl distributed a handout on the annual Roadside Conference hosted by Linn County.
- Tama County SWCD and Practical Farmers of Iowa are hosting a fall soil health workshop August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Otter Creek Nature Center from 9:00am-1:00pm.
- Cedar River Coalition meeting scheduled for September 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00am-3:00pm at Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Waterloo.

## **X. Public Comment**

- No public comment at this time.

**XI. Next Meeting**

- The next MCWMA Board of Directors meeting will be held on November 8<sup>th</sup> from 3:00-5:00pm at the Grundy Center Community Center.

**XII. Adjourn**

- Motion by Chris Schwartz to adjourn. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cara Matteson. Motion to adjourn carried at 4:50pm.