

**Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, April 18, 2024, 3:00 pm – 4:30 pm

Cedar Rapids Water Division Administration Building Facility, 1111 Shaver Rd NE, Cedar Rapids
with a virtual option

Meeting Minutes

Agenda

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 by Chair Stevenson.

Board Members Present:

John Kurtz (Buchanan County), Chris Schwartz (Black Hawk County), Steve Jordan (Hudson), Mary Beth Stevenson (Cedar Rapids), Bruce Frana (Linn SWCD), Barbara Smith (Grundy County), Chris Even (Jesup), Wayne Castle (Waterloo), Sherman Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Justin Schroeder (Cedar Rapids)

Others Present:

Alec Matthew (Cedar Rapids), Jody Bailey (ECICOG), Dan Gates (Hudson), Miranda Haes (Iowa DNR), Cynthia Farmer (Center for Rural Affairs), Evan Brehm (Iowa Soybean Association), Jason Gomes (North Iowa Agronomy Partners), John Rathbun (Iowa Dept. Ag & Land Stewardship), Jennifer Fencel (ECICOG), Emery Davis (Heartland Co-op)

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting – August 22, 2023 – Action Item

Minutes from January 18, 2024 – Motion by Schwartz, second by Schroeder to approve. Motion carried.

III. FY24 Budget Update & Invoices

Fencel presented the FY24 and FY25 estimated budgets. The FY24 budget balance is estimated to be \$53,980. A discussion was held on member contributions. Fencel will send an email to members who contributed to FY24 for their consideration & discussions of contributions for FY25.

IV. Statewide WMAs and 2024 Legislative Session Update: Cynthia Farmer, Center for Rural Affairs

Farmer provided an update on House File 2642, which proposed changes to Iowa watershed management authority organizations and the activities they would be permitted to engage in. At this time, it does not appear the proposed will make it through the funnel. Farmer is

coordinating with WMA representatives from around the state to hold a brainstorming meeting on August 28, 2024.

V. Overview of the Cedar River Source Water Partnership RCPP Technical and Financial Resources

Stevenson provided an update on the Cedar River Source Water Partnership RCPP project and technical resources available to Iowa communities with vulnerable source water supplies.

VI. Introduction to Conservation Agronomy Resources in the Watershed

Evan Brehm, Jason Gomes, Emery Davis, and John Rathbun provided overviews of the outreach and technical services they provide in the upper, middle, and lower Cedar River watershed HUC-12s to landowners to boost implementation of cost-share projects on their properties.

VII. Iowa DNR Source Water Protection Resources, Miranda Haes, Iowa DNR

Haes provided a summary of steps the IDNR takes to assist communities with their source water protection projects: assessment, plan development and implementation.

VIII. Batch and Build Project: Current and Upcoming Activities

Stevenson updated the board on the City of Cedar Rapid's current batch and build project. She stated that 37 edge-of-field projects should be completed by the end of April 2024.

IX. Discussion on Possible Coordinator Funding Options

Stevenson and Fencil led a discussion on several current grant RFPs: Regional Conservation Partnership Program, Iowa Partners for Conservation, Water Quality Initiative, and Underserved Farmer to Farmer. The board agreed to convene a committee to explore Underserved Farmer to Farmer project proposal.

X. Watershed Project Updates

Schwartz shared that he recently started **working at _____**, and that the organization might be a good one to partner with on a watershed project.

XI. Announcements and/or Board Member Updates

The annual Fishers and Farmers Watershed Leaders Network Workshop will be held August 19 – 21st, 2024 at the Chestnut Mountain Resort in Galena, IL.

The annual Iowa Water Conference will be held September 10 – 11th at the Hyatt Regency Hotel

and Conference Center in Coralville, IL.

XII. Public Comment

None.

XIII. 2024 Meeting Calendar:

The next meeting will be held July 18th, 3:00 pm, location TBD

XIV. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 4:16 pm.