

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

Thursday, February 1, 2023, 4:00 pm – 4:45 pm
Virtual meeting with in-person option at ECICOG office

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD), Wayne Castle (Waterloo), Al Schafbuch (Tama SWCD), Tracy Seeman (Benton County), Doug Kaiser (Buchanan SWCD), Sherman Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Maria Perez (Cedar Falls), Mary Beth Stevenson (Cedar Rapids), Dan Bangasser (Grundy Center), Mark Pingnot (Benton SWCD), Chris Even (Jesup), Chris Schwartz (Black Hawk County), Steph Lientz (Linn County), Sue Ellen Hosch (Linn SWCD)

Others Present: Jennifer Fencil (ECICOG), Josh Balk (Black Hawk SWCD), Justin Schroeder (Cedar Rapids), Evan Brehm (Iowa Soybean Association), Greg Walston (ISU Extension)

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting was called to order at 4:13 by Chairperson Schwartz.

II. Election of Officers

Motion by Lundy, second by Abels to nominate and elect Mary Beth Stevenson as Chairperson. Motion carried. Motion by Lundy, second by Kaiser to nominate and elect Wayne Castle as Vice Chair. Motion carried. A slate of additional Executive Committee members was identified with Fred Abels as Treasurer, Maria Perez as Secretary, and Chris Schwartz, John Kurtz, Barbra Smith, Sherman Lundy, and Chris Even as at-large members to be confirmed at the next meeting.

III. Minutes and Notes of Previous Meetings

Minutes and notes from January 20, April 21, and June 16, 2022 – Motion by Stevenson, second by Lundy to approve all. Motion carried.

IV. Amend By-Laws

The Board agreed to draft language amending the WMA By-Laws in June 2022 to expand the Executive Committee and designate a majority present as another way to achieve a quorum. The proposed changes have been available for review since June. Motion by Lundy, second by Abels to approve the amended By-Laws. Motion carried.

V. Administrative Services & Budget Update

Fencil reported several visits to SWCD Commission meetings and presented a summary of the FY23 budget. Motion by Schwartz, second by Hosch to approve the budget summary.

VI. Watershed Project Updates

a. WQI/319 Projects

Evan with the Iowa Soybean Association organized an event that was well attended. Josh Balk reported on 13 projects in FY22 including a wetland bank and signs marking watershed boundaries.

b. Iowa Water Approach closeout

FencI reported that the IWA Benton County contract is officially closed.

c. Cedar Rapids Clean Water Project

Stevenson reported that the project, modeled after an edge of field batch and build project in Polk County, is off to a good start. The first batch of projects (bioreactors and saturated buffers) in Linn County will be ready to bid within 6 months. IDALS will provide 100% cost share with a \$1,000 incentive for each project.

VII. 2023 Outreach

FencI discussed the idea of developing a Landowner Recognition Program.

VIII. Speakers for Board Meetings

FencI asked about recent requests for agenda time by groups like Ducks Unlimited. The Board is fine with presentations from relevant groups. The Iowa Flood Center asked to present the IWA Final report at an upcoming meeting.

IX. Other Business

The Board asked for the digital files for the watershed brag book. FencI to add to the February 2023 Board Packet folder.

X. Public Comment

none

XI. Next Meeting

The next MCWMA Board of Directors meeting will be held on April 20th from 3:00-4:00 pm. Location TBD.

XII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 pm