

Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority (MCWMA)

Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday July 25, 2017, 3:00pm-5:00pm

US Bank Community Room (414 A Ave, Vinton, IA)

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Todd Wiley (Benton County), Cara Matteson (City of Cedar Rapids), Clayton Ohrt (Buchanan County), Dean McKenna (Tama SWCD), Josh Balk (Black Hawk SWCD, alternate), Dan Bangasser (City of Grundy Center), Brian Wirtz (City of Evansdale), Phil Schuppert (City of Waterloo), David Sturch (City of Cedar Falls), David Neil (City of La Porte City), Les Beck (Linn County), James Lindaman (Butler SWCD), Chris Ward (City of Vinton alternate), Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD).

Others Present: Adam Rodenberg (MCWMA), Adrienne Holmes (Bolten & Menk), Karl Gesch (Iowa Soybean Association), Greg Walston (Benton County Iowa State University Extension), Charles Inkenberry (FYRA Engineering), Wayne Castle (City of Waterloo, alternate), Sandy Pumphrey (City of Cedar Rapids, alternate), Jen Fencl (East Central Iowa Council of Governments), Nick Longbuco (The Nature Conservancy), Bob Muchmore (Buchanan SWCD), Shane Wulf (Black Hawk SWCD), Shawn O'Shea (MSA Professional Services), Sean McMahon (Iowa Ag Water Alliance), Jim Jordahl (Iowa Ag Water Alliance), Breanna Shea (Iowa Flood Center), Steve Kalkhoff (United States Geological Service), Vanessa Fixmer-Oriaz (HBK Engineering), Clint Geldine (Benton County Natural Resources Conservation Service), Larry Jones (Tama County Natural Resources Conservation Service), Calvin Wolter (Iowa Department of Natural Resources), Marybeth Stevenson (Iowa Department of Natural Resources), Ashley Kittle (Tallgrass Prairie Center), Maria Urice (Tallgrass Prairie Center), Clark Porter (Black Hawk Creek Water Coalition), Shelby Williams (Benton County SWCD), Ashley Johannes (Iowa Flood Center), Julie Kearney (University of Iowa).

MCWMA Board of Directors Meeting

I. Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 3:07pm by Chairperson Todd Wiley.
 - o There was not a quorum at the start of the meeting. Began with the Iowa Watershed Approach Update until a quorum was established.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting

- Les Beck motioned to approve the minutes from the board meeting 3-28-2017. Dan Bangasser 2nd motion. Motion carried.

III. Iowa Watershed Approach Update

- Ashlee Johannes from the Iowa Watershed Approach Flood Resilience Team provided an update on the resilience component for the Middle Cedar Watershed Project.
- Calvin Wolter from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources presented on the Iowa Best Management Practices (BMP) Mapping Project.
 - o Digitized all existing agricultural BMP's throughout the State of Iowa.
 - o Data is available on the Iowa DNR website.
 - o The entire Middle Cedar Watershed has been completed.

- Antonio Arenas from IIHR-Hydroscience and Engineering presented an update on the Middle Cedar Watershed Hydrologic Model/Assessment.
 - o Hydrologic Model/Assessment still expected to be completed by spring 2018.
 - o Agriculture Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) analysis will be incorporated into the watershed management plan. Expected to be completed by the end of 2017.
- Ashley Kittle from the Tallgrass Prairie Center presented on the “On the Farm Program”.
 - o The goal is to establish demonstration sites throughout the Middle Cedar Watershed to implement native prairie within agricultural systems.
 - Provide technical assistance, host and facilitate field days
 - 9 completed demonstration sites in the Middle Cedar Watershed
 - o Upcoming field days;
 - September 20, 9:00 am - 12:00 pm Cedar Falls, Iowa
 - September 21, 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm Dike, Iowa

IV. Watershed Management Authorities of Iowa

- Rodenberg presented information on the opportunity for the MCWMA to join the Watershed Management Authorities of Iowa and appoint a representative to their Board of Directors.
- Discussion was held on the opportunity to join the WMAs of Iowa.
 - o Cara Matteson motioned that the MCWMA join the WMAs of Iowa. Clayton Ohrt 2nd the motion. Motion carried.
 - o Chris Ward motioned to appoint Adam Rodenberg to the WMAs of Iowa Board of Directors. Fred Abels 2nd motion. Motion carried.

V. Implementation Committee Update

- Application Process for Practice Implementation
 - o Rodenberg provided an update from the implementation committee meeting held on July 10th.
 - Application (draft)
 - Ranking Process
 - Based on the results from the hydrologic model/assessment of conservation practices that have the highest flood reduction benefits.
 - Landowner’s 25% financial contribution will be paid to Benton County.
- HUC-12 Sub Watershed Selection for Practice Implementation
 - o Rodenberg presented slides describing the process to choose 4 additional HUC-12 sub watersheds to receive implementation dollars as part of the Iowa Watershed Approach project to recommend to the MCWMA Board. The technical team recommended the following sub-watersheds to receive implementation dollars: Twelvemile Creek (Tama County), Devil’s Run-Wolf Creek (Tama County), Lime Creek (Buchanan County), and Bear Creek (Buchanan County).
 - Fred Abels motioned to accept the technical team recommendations to include Twelvemile Creek, Devil’s Run-Wolf Creek, Lime Creek, and Bear Creek to receive implementation dollars as part of the Iowa Watershed Approach project. Dave Neil 2nd motion. Motion carried.

VI. Project Coordinator Update

- Rodenberg presented 3 potential logo design options for the MCWMA to consider. Board members voted on their preference.
 - o Option 1a: 1 vote
 - o Option 1b: 2 votes
 - o Option 2: 11 votes
 - o Option 3: 1 vote
- Jim Lindaman motioned to accept Option 2 as the design logo for the MCWMA. Jeremy Sills 2nd motion. Motion carried.

VII. Watershed Planning Services

- Rodenberg described the process to select a contractor for the planning services for the middle cedar watershed to recommend to the MCWMA Board. The technical team recommended Emmons and Olivier Resources Inc. (EOR) for the watershed planning services for the MCWMA.
 - o Discussion was held on the recommendation.
 - EOR introduced team members present and described their roles and discussed the end products.
 - o Fred Abels motioned to accept the recommendations of the technical team to hire EOR for the planning services for the MCWMA and to move forward in contracting. Chris Ward 2nd motion. Motion carried.

VIII. Other Business

- University of Minnesota engagement opportunity
 - o Rodenberg described an opportunity for the MCWMA to partner with a research project from the University of Minnesota.
 - MCWMA provide a letter of support
 - MCWMA appoint a representative to sit on advisory board and serve as a liaison.
 - o Discussion was held on the time commitment, requirements, and potential outcomes (positive/negative) of partnering with the University of Minnesota on their research project.
 - o Fred Abels motioned for the MCWMA to provide a letter of support for the University of Minnesota research project and appoint Adam Rodenberg to sit on the advisory board. Cara Matteson 2nd motion. Dean McKenna voted nay and the rest were all ayes. Motion carried.

IX. Public Comment

- Carl Gesch from the Iowa Soybean Association (ISA) announced that ISA has outside resources for HUC-12 sub watershed planning and is interested in working in the Middle Cedar watershed. ISA would like to coordinate their work with the MCWMA.
 - o The consensus of the board was to direct the technical team to work with ISA and coordinate their work with EOR.

- Clark Porter with Black Hawk Creek Watershed Coalition is working with Grundy and Black Hawk SWCD's on identifying a potential HUC-12 sub watershed along Black Hawk Creek for watershed planning.

X. Next Meeting

The next MCWMA Board Meeting will be held on October 19, 2017 from 3-5 pm. Tentative location set at US Bank Community Room (414 A Ave, Vinton, IA).

XI. Adjourn

Clayton Ohrt motioned to adjourn. Dan Bangasser 2nd motion. Motion to adjourn carried 4:55 pm.