

North Raccoon River WMA Meeting – September 8 – Lake City

Attendees: total of 29 (IWA associated – 7)

9:08 am – Meeting called to order

Jim Patrick – Storm Lake City Manager

9:13 am – IFC/IIHR Update – Larry Weber

- 100-year events every 10-15 years
- Master funding agreement between HUD and IEDA is still in process
 - Awaiting online fund reporting system to be up and running
- IWA Website
 - Planning documents
 - Presentations at meetings
 - Iowa Watershed Approach Info System
 - Iowa Flood Info System
 - Iowa Water Quality Info System
- Urban infrastructure – Dubuque, Coralville, Storm Lake - \$40 million
- Fund spending areas
 - Buena Vista – Outlet Creek
 - Pocahontas – Cedar Creek
- Watershed management authority (WMA) formation
- Project coordinator – WMA development and interact with landowners for built projects
- Hydrologic assessment – measurement of land to inform WMA plan

9:38 am – IDNR – Kyle Ament

- **Watershed Management Authority/Coalition/Association/any name of preference**
- WMA activities – watershed planning and management, assessment of flood risk and water quality, education to communities regarding flood and water quality, grant writing and administration
- Recent flood events (over past few years): Little Sioux, Siouxlanders, Perry
- WMA formation - notify ALL eligible entities
- North Raccoon has 14 SWCDs and counties
- Organizational documents – examples of chapter 28E agreement (Cedar River and Walnut Creek) and copy of WMA by-laws
 - IDNR website has all 28E agreements and WMAs in Iowa
- Finalize 28E agreements by December/Winter 2016-17
- File 28E agreement by September/Fall 2017
- IDNR Pro-Bono Services – Watershed formation, planning, etc.

NEXT STEPS

- **Identify individuals who are interested in forming a “working group” to review other WMA 28E agreements and operations, and draft 28E agreement for North Raccoon**
 - Sooner rather than later, so when funding comes, you are ready to start WMA formation and process actively
 - Buena Vista recommended to be involved, since fiscal agent for grant funding
 - Jim Patrick, Storm Lake, and Kyle Amnet, IDNR, offered to be contact for creating working group for North Raccoon 28E agreement
- **Start determining logistics for project coordinator**
 - Buena Vista county discussion with SWCD
 - Where will their office space be? Who can provide salary, travel/vehicle?

11:06 am – Meeting adjourns

Q & A - North Raccoon River WMA Meeting – September 8

1. Is the plan based on subwatersheds or whole north raccoon watershed?
 - a. North raccoon watershed plan
2. Several WMA formed; some have a lot of funding and some have none. Difference is some are applying for grants and some not. When you form WMA, you do not automatically get funding. Who will write grants and provide funding?
 - a. NDRC grant has funding for WMA project coordinators, which one of their job tasks would be grant writing
 - b. NDRC grant funding to North Raccoon for next 5 years (guaranteed) to help start your WMA, IDNR Pro-Bono Services for technical help and seek out other funding sources, IFC can aid in WMA formation
3. Middle/South Raccoon did not make it. How are other WMAs doing?
 - a. 17 WMAs formed, 16 WMAs active – Middle/South Raccoon did not hold up due to lack of watershed plan
 - b. Need to think beyond our geo-political boundaries
4. WMA will manage where funding goes. Can we fast-track development? We are not going to be ready for this amount of funding if we do not have planning process in place
 - a. New WMAs forming have benefit to review and adapt 16 other WMAs process
5. Are built projects only in 2 specific subwatersheds (Outlet Creek and Cedar Creek)?
 - a. Yes, but whole watershed (North Raccoon) will be involved in watershed plan
6. Who is involved in 28E agreement?
 - a. Cities, counties, soil & water conservation districts that fall within watershed boundaries MUST be invited to participate, but are NOT required to participate
7. Implementation dollars, are the flood mitigation funding in the 2 subwatersheds? Where can the water quality funding be spent?
 - a. Flood mitigation and water quality funding is pooled together (not separate), and all funding is spent in the 2 specific subwatersheds
 - b. Previous Iowa Watershed Project and Nutrient Reduction Strategy are examples of how large bulk of money spent in specific area(s) will return greater improvements and outcomes (want to quantify these)
 - c. IDALS will help identify areas in BV and Poch. for built practices/projects, which will help IFC connect with landowners
8. Why isn't all the funding being spent on built projects/practices?
 - a. WMA formation is important for management and outstanding flood projects
9. Can we match these federal funding budgets with other federal farm budgets?
 - a. No, this is a unique funding opportunity from HUD

10. Can WMA act as an entity for conservation easement?
 - a. Depends on 28E agreement – if formed as separate entity (which most are) then they have power to do so
 - b. Can also work with other partnering organizations to enact this

11. Supervisors of counties are reluctant to enter 28E agreement, because the term “authority” creates fear that the WMAs will have some authority and “water quality” is another fear due to DM WaterWorks lawsuit
 - a. Goals of IWA: flood resilience and flood mitigation, stay focused on this
 - b. Jurisdiction concerns: WMA is voluntary – all entities in boundaries must be invited but do NOT have to join
 - c. If county/entity does not join now, they can always join in the future at any time

12. Can we change what the 28E agreement is called?
 - a. Yes, you can call it North Raccoon partnership/cooperative/coalition
 - b. This will help lessen fears from county supervisors possibly

13. Are there any obligated resources available?
 - a. No, but several other WMAs have found stable funding by showing their value and important outcomes and improvements
 - b. Organizations and businesses will invest in organizations that provide value and improvements towards the greater good

14. Why do we need another group doing the same thing? We will be competing for the same funding that similar existing entities/groups are applying for
 - a. Brings cities, counties, and districts together which is different than other non-profit organizations (ag groups)
 - b. How the next 5 years plays out may determine a more stable funding source further and beyond
 - c. Success breeds success – we were awarded \$97 million grant, which optimistically will aid in future funding

15. Can we invite other partners to be in 28E agreement?
 - a. Statute restricts who can be involved – cities, counties, and district entities only
 - b. Iowa Soybean Association, IDALS, etc. are actively partnering with other WMAs

16. Where will the project coordinator be housed?
 - a. Depends on local agreement of watershed – North Raccoon, Buena Vista County
 - b. Who has space? Who has capacity? Who has infrastructure (salary, vehicles/travel, office space)?
 - c. Need to start determining these logistics

17. Are the PowerPoints available to watersheds?
 - a. IWA website coming soon! – all resources will be available on here

IOWA WATERSHED APPROACH

NORTH RACCOON WMA PLANNING MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Thursday, September 8, 2016, 9 am at Lake City Community Center

Name	Organization	Email	Mailing Address	Add Me to IWA Mailing List
1 Dale Arends	BV County	arendsdale@yahoo.com	5775 210th Ave Newell	
2 Clarence Sieker	Pocahontas County	csieker@pocahontas.coia.us	309 South 2nd 712-577-2222	
3 Paul Meuten	Burnsville Co			
4 Dr. Muri	Greene Co			
5 ROCEA STAFF	GLIDDEN	CARLON@glidden.org	14889 UUYAGER RD GARDENHAY	
6 KEVIN GRIGGS	EOB	Kgriggscorinc.com	915 9th St. BOONE	X
7 Melinda Hines	City of Scranton	scranton@netins.net	PO Box 448 Scranton IA 51402	X
8 Fred Long	Greene Co Soil & Water	toast@netins.net	1220 I Ave, Jefferson 50129	X
9 Larry Mackenzie	Caldwell Agency		355 Murray Drive	
10 Eric Wood	City of Lake City	ewood@lakecityiowa.com	PO Box 100 Lake City IA 51450	
11 John Westergaard	Lake View	Jarhead3048@gmail.com	144 Lake View	
12 Scott Peterson	Lake View	lvp@iowatelecom.net	305 Main, Lake View	
13 Jim Patrick	Storm Lake	patrick@stormlakeiowa.com		
14 Jim Millenacker	Blackhawk Lake Protective	millenacker@hotmail.com	530 Summit St Lake View	
15 Keri Navratil	Storm Lake	navratil@stormlake.org	620 Elm St	
16 Erin Sommers	Graphic Advocate	gned@advocatewithadstream.net		
17 Dean Schetterer	Carrall County Supervisor	drschetterer@gmail.com	16326 120th St Breda, IA	
18 Jim Caulfield	The Perry News.com	theperynews@gmail.com	P.O. 382 Perry, Iowa	
19 Amy Mielitz	EOB	amielitz@EOBINC.com	657 THREE AVE, Oskema, IA	
20 Neil Bosh	Carrall Co. Spn	neilbosh@yahoo.com	176 Woodland Dr, Carlisle	

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	Name	Organization	Email	Mailing Address	Add Me to IWA Mailing List
1	Tina Salmeron	MADISON SUCO			
2	Diane Ercese	Iowa Soybean Association	d.ercese@iasoybeans.com		
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