

Meeting Minutes
North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition Quarterly Meeting
Friday, October 26, 2018 at 10:00 am

The quarterly meeting of the NRRWMC was called to order at 10 am by chair Mark Hanson. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, roll call was completed with 16 members present in the room and 3 members represented via proxy which does not represent a quorum (20 members are needed for quorum now that the board has 38 members).

At the last meeting the city of Adel and Palo Alto county were added as members. The cities of Des Moines and West Des Moines have applied for membership and will be added at the next meeting where quorum is met.

Dan Gilles, water resource engineer with the Iowa Flood Center, presented a hydrologic assessment update. Iowa is fourth in the U.S. in flood-related FEMA disaster declarations from 1988-2016 with 951 declarations (Source: <http://www.fema.gov>). Every county in Iowa has had at least four disaster declarations in that time frame. North Raccoon has 150 million dollars in crop losses which is roughly 4% of the statewide total of 4.1 billion dollars. Dan showed how the amount of rainfall experienced this year is far outside the norm dating back to the 1940s. In these rain events, roughly one-third of streamflows come from surface water run-off. Better infiltration can reduce the amount of run-off in streamflows and instead add to the baseflow of the waterway.

In summary, Dan shared streamflows have changed from 1970-1990 due to changes in baseflow likely due to more heavy cropping systems and artificial (man-made) drainage. Baseflows have increased which deepens stream channels which draws more groundwater from the water table into streamflows.

Dan shared successful wetland projects from other watersheds around the state. Costs of such projects were discussed and the benefits in reduce flood risks. He also showed data from the major statewide LiDAR project recently completed that identified potential sites for wetlands and small ponds in the watershed. These sites are in line with natural drainage networks.

Mark Campbell of Webster county was able to join the meeting via phone call. A motion to add the city of Des Moines was made by Bob Rice and seconded by Chuck Wenthold. The motion was approved. Scott Peterson, city of Lakeview, moved to approve the August meeting minutes; seconded by Mark Campbell. Motion approved.

Valerie Decker shared survey results from the Iowa Flood Center's community resilience presentation at the August meeting. The next survey will be an online survey to all board members.

Pat Conrad of EOR presented on the watershed management plan process. This meeting is the beginning of the early phase that focuses on stakeholder engagement. The second phase involves drafting goals for the watershed and the final phase is implementation. Then we did a group activity.

Next meeting will be our annual meeting to kick-off 2019. Time and place are yet to be determined. The Coalition will also be electing new officers. Those with an interest in running should let Mark Hanson, current board chair, or other executive board members know.