

Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority

Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, August 15, 2019 3:00-5:00pm

Hartman Reserve Nature Center

(657 Reserve Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613)

Meeting Summary

Board Members Present: Cara Matteson (City of Cedar Rapids), Chris Schwartz (Black Hawk County), Sherman Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Jack Boyer (Tama SWCD), David Sturch (City of Cedar Falls), Wayne Castle (City of Waterloo), Les Beck (Linn County), Jim Lindaman (Butler SWCD), Lawrence Green (Franklin SWCD), Mark Pingnot (Benton SWCD), Brian Wirtz (City of Evansdale), Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD), Dick Sloan (Buchanan SWCD).

Others Present: Adam Rodenberg (MCWMA), Hannah Bates (Iowa Water Center), Craig Just (University of Iowa), Reuben Vyn (University of Iowa CEA), Will Meyers (IDALS), Jen Fencil (ECICOG), Marybeth Stevenson (Iowa DNR), Jessica Turba (HSEMD), Ashley Knudson (University of Iowa CEA). Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center).

Meeting lacked a quorum

I. Call to Order & Introductions

- Meeting was called to order at 3:13 by Vice-Chairperson Cara Matteson.
- Introductions of Board Members and attendees.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting – February 2, 2019.

- Changes made to minutes from February 2, 2019 meeting.
 - o Previous meeting lacked a quorum, meeting summary handed out.

III. Watershed Projects

a. Iowa Watershed Approach (Adam Rodenberg)

i. Update

- Rodenberg provided update on on-going construction projects. Tentative field day to be scheduled for summer 2020. Rodenberg provided cloud link to construction photos for active watershed projects.

ii. Bid Packet 2/3

- Rodenberg provided update on status of projects. Anticipated \$3.5-4.0 million in projects. Most projects are covered under established regional permits through USACE. Several projects require individual permits from USACE and will be bid out if/when permits are issued.

iii. New Project List

- No action taken from previous meeting.
- b. North Iowa Agronomy Partners
 - i. Jeremy Sills provided an update of activities. Main focus of NIAP are edge-of-field practices. Have landowners signed up for 5 bioreactors, 3 saturated buffers, 2 wetlands, and ~300 acres of cover crops. Sills described NIAP outreach strategies and efforts. 15 producers signed up as a result of outreach events.

IV. Partner Updates

- a. Iowa Flood Center – EPA Grant Award
 - i. Craig Just introduced staff and the results of a competitive EPA grant opportunity. Mud Creek watershed was selected for funding with a goal of 5% reduction in Nitrate. \$100,000 is available to assist landowner in Mud Creek to construct flood reduction projects.
- b. Iowa Department of Ag & Land Stewardship – EPA Grant Award
 - i. Will Meyers presented on successful EPA grant for the Middle Cedar watershed to construct 6 wetlands. The project has approximately \$1.2 million available over the next 3 years.
 - ii. Shane Wulf gave presentation on different types of wetlands IDALS is working on throughout the state.

V. Middle Cedar Watershed Plan (Jennifer Fencil)

- a. Marybeth Stevenson summarized meeting on discussion of the implementation plan within the watershed plan.
- b. Watershed Management Plan contract extended through December 31, 2019.
 - i. Added 2 work orders to update two HUC-12 subwatershed plans to meet 319 standard and to provide presentation to the City of Vinton on the stormwater plan developed.
- c. Jennifer Fencil introduced concept of developing funding strategy for MCWMA. Executive Committee and others interested to set up meeting and report back to MCWMA.

VI. Other Business

- a. Benton County Conservation – Hart Family Wetland

- i. Rodenberg described a large flood mitigation wetland being funded through the Iowa Watershed Approach located 1 mile southeast of Mt. Auburn in Benton County.

b. City of Waterloo

- i. Wayne Castle described two SRF project the City of Waterloo is applying for cost share assistance for. Requested letters of support from the MCWMA.

VII. Public Comment

- Kate Giannini described CDI conference presentation, ISAC conference in Des Moines dedicated 5 hours of conference to flooding and the Environmental Defense Fund 2-day visit from North Carolina.

VIII. Next Meeting

- The next MCWMA Board of Directors meeting will be held on November 21, 2019 from 3:00-5:00pm at Hartman Reserve Nature Center (657 Reserve Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613).
- Develop and send notice letters to unresponsive MCWMA members.

IX. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.