

Middle Cedar WMA quarterly meeting  
Thursday, October 27, 2016 @ 3:30 PM  
Vinton, IA – Farmers Savings Bank and Trust Community Room

3:32 PM – Meeting called to order

Todd Wiley (MCWMA Chair) called the meeting to order. Wiley suggested moving the Iowa Flood Center update to the beginning of the agenda and introduced Larry Weber.

- Iowa Watershed Approach Update: Larry Weber

Weber announced that HUD and IEDA now have a contract in place. Contracts with funded partners and the counties will be in place by the middle of November.

Weber stressed the importance of the WMA in the IWA project. The WMA will be the primary means of communication for the IWA and will help to carry out the long-term watershed plan that will be developed through this project. The WMA needs to consider future goals and objectives they will strive to achieve at the end of this five-year project.

As the IFC has been waiting on contracting, their team has begun preliminary work surrounding communication and hydrologic assessments. A new website is available for watershed partners to access to find out information about upcoming meetings/events, contact information, news, and individual watershed information. This is a temporary website and a new site will be developed in the coming months. Weber noted that a new informatics tool is under development that will allow users to access real-time watershed data and information via the online system. The Iowa Watershed Approach Information System is similar to IFC's IFIS and IIHR's IWQIS and will show USGS, IFC, and IIHR sensor information.

The IFC will begin the first round of sensor deployments in Spring 2017. This round of deployments will be focused on filling in any obvious gaps in data collection for each watershed. A second round of deployments will look to identify more specific sites for monitoring the benefits of constructed projects.

The next round of quarterly meetings will focus on the social resilience aspect of the IWA. In the spring of 2017, the hydrologic team will be back to share a progress update.

- IFC Hydrologic Assessment update: Antonio Arenas

IFC Research Engineer Antonio Arenas shared an update with the WMA about flooding trends in across Iowa and the Midwest. Studies and research has shown that we are seeing an increase in frequency, not magnitude, of flooding events based on observational records.

Arenas went on to describe the physically based modeling that will be used to determine areas for potentially placing constructed projects. IFC is currently gathering data about existing BMPs in each of the watersheds and will be using the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) tool to determine potential project locations. The existing BMP inventory will be used to model how existing BMPs influence how the watershed responds to different rainfall events. Arenas showed three different animations of the recent flooding event in eastern Iowa. In one day, the Cedar River basin exported the same amount of nutrients as the entire state of Iowa would in one day.

Breanna Shea shared a list of services that the Iowa Flood Center can provide to the WMAs and counties. Other funded partners also have developed lists and they are available on the IWA website. The WMAs and counties need to be aware of what funded partners will provide them to ensure they aren't contracting that work out to a consultant or other entity.

- Questions:
  - Is IFC putting in new monitoring stations?
    - Yes. The IFC team will present possible sensor locations to the WMA and the WMA will ultimately decide where they are placed.
  - Is the hydrologic assessment part of the watershed master plan?
    - IFC will run the hydrologic assessment and provide information to the person writing the watershed plan.
- Prairie on Farms project: Ashley Kittle

Ashley Kittle, program manager for the Prairie on Farms Project, shared a presentation to discuss the multiple benefits of prairie and how they can assist landowners in incorporating prairie into their farm management plans. The project is looking for interested landowners for each of the eight watersheds that is part of the IWA to see if they would be interested in adding any prairie to their land to serve as a demonstration site for the watershed. Kittle also shared a list of services that UNI can provide the WMAs and Counties, including attending WMA meetings and helping with field days/workshops.

- Watershed coordinator position hiring committee: Todd Wiley

Wiley shared with the group that a small committee met to discuss options for hiring the project coordinator. The committee looked at different possibilities and ultimately concluded that ECICOG would be the best option for housing the coordinator. Benton County will be the employer, but ECICOG will help to administer the project coordinator.

- Watershed planning services: Todd Wiley

Wiley addressed the WMA board to discuss the watershed planning services for the IWA. The WMA will need to develop an RFP for planning. There is a template RFP that is available that can be updated as needed. Wiley suggested a small tech team be put together to look at the RFPs. Tech team members do not have to be a part of the WMA board. Sherman Lundy suggested that the committee include NRCS/SWCD staff members.

Wiley noted that Jennifer Fencil with ECICOG would like to resign from serving as the secretary/treasurer with the WMA Board of Directors due to a conflict of interest with the planning dollars for the IWA. ECICOG will be competing for the planning services.

**- Next Meeting: January 12, 2017 @ 3:30 PM, Vinton IA**

**IOWA WATERSHED APPROACH**  
**MIDDLE CEDAR WMA MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET**

Thursday, October 27, 2016, 3:30 pm at Farmers Savings Bank & Trust, Vinton, IA

	Name	Organization	Email	Mailing Address	Add Me to IWA Mailing List
1	Don Thork	Berlin County			
2	Mike Miller	Hudson			
3	Sherman Lundy	B.H. Co. Soil Water			
4	Cara Matteson	City of Cedar Rapids			
5	Shelby Williams	Benton SWCD			
6	Greg Walston	Benton FSUFO			
7	David Stueck	City of Cedar Falls			
8	Erika Hodgson	Vinton, IA			
9	Karl Gesch	Iowa Soybean Association			
10	Nancy Thorkildson	City of Shellsburg	njthorkildson@fntes.com		
11	John Miller	B.H. Co. Board of Sup.			
12	<del>John Miller</del>	City of Vinton			
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# IOWA WATERSHED APPROACH

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	Name	Organization	Email	Mailing Address	Add Me to IWA Mailing List
1	Al Schaubach	Benton Co FB	Schaubach69@gmail.com		
2	Matt Gow	MSA Professional Services	mrgow@msa-ps.com		✓
3	Jack Boyer	TAMA SWCD	jackboyer@gmail.com		✓
4	Jeremy Sills	Benton SWCD	jeremy.sills14@gmail.com		
5	Kasey Hutchinson	Shive Hattery	khutchinson@shive-hattery.com		✓
6	Don Bergasser	City of Grundy Center	publicworks@grundycenter.net		
7	Jacob Tjaden	INRCOG	jtjaden@inrcog.org		
8	Shane Wolf	Black Hawk SWCD	shane.wolf@ia.nacd.net		
9	Phil Schuyert	City of Waterloo	stormwater@waterloo-ia.org		
10	John Balk	Black Hawk SWCD	john.balk@ia.nacd.net		
11	Stephanie Lientz	Linn County P&H	stephanie.lientz@linncounty.org		
12	<del>Lawrence</del>	Franklin SWCD	lawrence.guss@ia.usda.gov		
13	Jim Lindaman	Butler SWCD	jlindaman@iowa-telecom.net		
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