

Middle Cedar WMA Meeting
Thursday, January 12th, 2017 @ 3:30 pm
Farmers Savings Bank & Trust Community Room

WMA Chair Todd Wiley began the meeting at 3:32 pm and minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Todd went through the roll call to see who is in attendance. Todd introduced Craig Just to introduce the flood resilience program and meeting participants outside of the WMA Board introduced themselves.

Craig began his presentation by providing an introduction to a National Science Foundation Smart and Connected Communities grant project that a team at the University of Iowa is applying for led by Professor Gabriele Villarini. The program will work to enable sustainable change to enhance community functioning.

Craig transitioned into describing the flood resilience subcomponent of the IWA. Craig introduced the flood resilience team that is working on the project and reviewed the partner organizations they are also working with. The flood resilience program has a staggered approach; they are working the Clear Creek, Upper Iowa and English River watersheds to begin with. In year two, they will engage the Middle Cedar Watershed. The Middle Cedar will be engaged later on because of all of the current activities in the watershed. The watersheds that have recently formed WMAs or have yet to form their WMA will be introduced to the resilience program later on.

Iowans know what it means to be resilience and to lack resilience. In this program, we need to define "flood" resilience and define who is and who is not flood resilient. Iowa communities help decide who is flood resilient. Increasing flood resilience requires actions and resources to help with mitigation. Preparedness helps people get ready for a flooding event. Response deals with immediate and short-term actions. Recovery deals with the short-term and long-term actions. The resilience program will look at how these actions work together and what resources should be looked at that will inform these actions.

Communities have to have hazard mitigation and disaster recovery plans in plan to compete for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program dollars. The IFC will help to develop hydrologic assessments for each of the watershed that will work to develop a watershed plan. The watershed plan will communicate with a flood resilience action plan that will be developed. All of these plans will work to inform and build off one another to provide a list of comprehensive resources and tools available to the watershed.

A website and online visualization tool has been developed for the project to share information. The visualization tool allows the user to customize watershed resources.

Questions or comments:

- Sherman Lundy: The state focus has been WQI and nutrient reduction strategy. What we need is a multiple approach. How do we see all of these projects working in coordination with one another?
 - o Craig: The Middle Cedar has a lot of projects going on in the watershed. With all of these projects, where can we assist or fill in any gaps? We have resources that other partners will not provide that we think will be of value. This is a fiercely 'flood first' program. The other groups are not as flood focused. The built projects will analyze benefits to flood reduction and water-quality improvement. We want partners to do what they do best and avoid duplicating efforts.
- Tom Oswald: The watershed needs to take ownership of the project and recognize the benefits that this program will have on their watershed.
- Craig: One long-term goal would be for HUD to understand that upstream built projects will help to benefit downstream communities. We want to change their way of thinking of geo-political boundaries.
- Presentation took me by surprise. I was expecting to see information about cover crops, etc. By overlaying these data sets, we can look at vulnerability. How do you connect spatial location of mitigation practices and the improvements in resilience or decrease in vulnerability.
 - o Craig: The watershed modeling will help us develop scenarios to see where practices should be implemented that will have the most impact.
- Michael – How did we determine low to moderate-income communities?
 - o Craig: There is threshold data that helped to determine that. Historically LMI populations have not been thought of during flood mitigation or recovery. HUD's requirement was to make sure that the work we do is benefiting these LMI areas.
- How many years will the grant money work for you?
 - o Craig: This is a five-year project. However, we expect this to live on. The WMA will continue to seek grants and will have a watershed plan to help drive future and continued work on the project.
- How often do we update flood maps?
 - o We have statewide floodplain maps available for the state of Iowa. The project ended in December, but some staff are remaining to help maintain the maps and continue to make modifications, updates.

Todd Wiley announced that a job description for the project coordinator had been released after the last WMA meeting. Twelve people applied for the position and four applicants will be interviewed. Interviewing will begin January 24th. The hiring committee will proceed with the process. The committee will notify the board of

their decision. Hiring committee includes Zach Parmenter, Jeremy Sills, Sherm Lundy, Mary Beth, Jennifer Fencl, and Cara Madsen.

During the last WMA meeting, the Board discussed contracting out the watershed planning for the project. We would like to form a 3-5-member committee to influence the watershed plan development. They will help to put out the request for proposals, accumulate proposals, and select who will be hired to carry out the plan. The by-laws allow for non board members to be a part of the committee.

David Sturch, Sherm, and Cara agreed to be a part of the committee. Todd asked Mary Beth to provide an overview of what is included in the watershed plan. The watershed plan will collect baseline data of land-use, water-quality, existing conservation practices in the watershed, etc. IWA funded partners can also offer suggestions and provide assistance in creating the plan.

Craig: Are there good examples of good watershed plans? English River has a nice example.

Mary Beth: Indian Creek and the Upper Cedar

Todd: Would IFC and IDNR be able to be a part of a technical team?

- Yes

Todd: The technical team will provide guidance and oversight for the watershed plan. The watershed plan will be tailored to what we determine our own individual watershed needs are.

Motion to include IDNR, IFC, and USGS in tech. team.

Sherm: We encourage six participants to bring in other expertise as needed.

Todd: Need to have a listed secretary/treasurer. Jeremy Sills selected as secretary/treasurer.

Cara addressed that the City of Cedar Rapids has applied for a WQI project for a street project to include stormwater BMPs including a rain garden, bioswale, and permeable pavement alley. Included will be an urban/ag field day. Requested that the board be asked to provide a letter of support for the project. A part of that would be for the watershed coordinator to take people out to the field to talk about ag partnerships. This is a grant through IDALS. There is not monetary ag, just that the coordinator would be involved in the ag aspect.

Approved letter of support for project.

Michael Kieffer said their office (Rod Blum) could provide a letter of support.

Sherm: All letters are taken into consideration.

Grassley's aide said they do not typically support projects that are competitive.

Todd: Behind the scenes work is a bit of challenge, but are making head-way. Money is actually flowing. We are progressing and things are going well. We will need a lot of help and need to keep up attendance and interest in the project. At some point, people will need to engage and be an active participant. There is a lot of administrative things to overcome on the front end, but we are moving towards implementation.

Todd suggests a different venue, especially as we begin to engage more landowners.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 21st @ bank, 3:30 pm

A suggestion was made to schedule a recurring meeting time in the future to help get meetings on everyone's schedule further in advance.

Adjourn: 4:46 pm

IOWA WATERSHED APPROACH

MIDDLE CEDAR WMA MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET

Thursday, January 12, 2017, 3:30 pm at Farmers Savings Bank & Trust, Vinton,

Name	Organization	Email	Mailing Address	Add Me to IWA Mailing List
1 Michael Miller	City of Hudson	m.miller@cityofhudsonia.com	525 Jefferson Hudson IA 52543	PO 535
2 Brian Schoon	INACOH	b.schoon@inacoh.org	229 E Park; Waterloo 50703	
3 Larry Jones	NRES	larry.e.jones@ia.usda.gov	102 Hwy 70 W, Tabor 52742	
4 MB Stevenson	IDNR	marybeth.stevenson@dnr.iowa.gov	118 323 4 8TH Iowa City	✓
5 Sean McNamee	Tama Commission	3145 120th St Hesperia IA 52542		
6 Brian Wirtz	City of Evansdale	inspector@cityofevansdale.org	123 Evans Evansdale IA 50701	
7 Chris Schwartz	Black Hawk County	superior.schwartz@iowa.gov	1105 Mulberry St. Waterloo 50703	
8 Adam Wilke	ISU Extension	awilke@iastate.edu	315 East Hill Ave 50014	
9 Chayton Ohrt	Buchanan Supervisor	cahntoco@buchanan-ia.us	2675 Hoken Ave Indianapolis 50614	
10 Zach Formater	Vinton			
11 Jeremy Sills	Benton SWCD			
12 Sherman Landy	Benton SWCD			
13 Cara Matteson	City of Cedar Rapids			
14 Jeff Geerts	IA Economic Dev Authority	jeff.geerts@iowaeda.com	200 E. Grand Ave Des Moines 50309	
15 Kasey Hutchinson	Shive Hattery	khutchinson@shive-hattery.com		✓
16 Jennifer Ness	USDA - FSA	jennifer.ness@ia.usda.gov		
17 Chirt Eldrine	USDA - NRES			
18 Shelby Williams	Benton SWCD			
19 Jack C Boyer	TAMA SWCD	jackcboyer@tama-ia.com	1031 Hwy 755, Reinbeck	
20 Shane Wolf	Black Hawk SWCD	shane.wolf@blackhawkswcd.net	105 W 11th St, Cedar Falls	

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Name	Organization	Email	Mailing Address	Add Me to IWA Mailing List
1	Castina Munoz	Castina-munoz@iowa-water.com		
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5	Scott E. Hansen	bentencountyema@farmers.com		
6	Tom Oswald	tom.oswald@iowa.gov		
7	MICHAEL KEEFER	michael.keefer@mail.house.gov	310 3rd St SE CEDAR RAPIDS IA 52401	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
8	PHIL SCHUPPERT	SPRMSATB@WATERBLOO.IA.GOV	715 MULBERRY ST WATERBLOO, IA 50703	
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