

Upper Wapsipinicon WMA Meeting – Independence – August 30, 2016

Don Shonka – WMA Chair

1:34 PM – Meeting called to order

Attendees (32): Elaine Hughes, Kip Ladage, Shannon Paulus, Shannon Gebel, Don Shonka, John Andersen, Rick Holthaus, Brian Schoon, Ross Evelsizer, Lora Friest, Dean Hamblin, Jan McGovern, John Kurtz, Greg Nalley, Ashley Kittle, Kim Leichtman, Michael Lenius, Sheila Steffer, Gary Gissel, Jeanine Tellin, Dan Cohen, Eric Giddens, Thomas Mullen, Chuck Ungs, Albert Roder, Ashley Sherrets, Ron Lenth, Mary Beth Stevenson, Craig Just, Antonio Arenas Amado, Breanna Shea, Ashlee Johannes

Approval of agenda? – Approved

Approval of June meeting minutes? – Approved

IFC IWA Update – Breanna Shea

- IEDA hopeful of contract in place in September
- Question follow-up from surveys at kickoff meetings → IWA Website update
- IWA website update - preview
 - Calendar of events and meetings
 - Open to public in a couple weeks
 - Watersheds tab – specific WMA website
 - IWAIS – IWQIS and IFIS combined – sensors and rain gauges (real-time measure)
 - Upper Wapsipinicon – interested in adding more sensors with IWA
- Timeline – pushed back a bit due to late funding
- Advisory Board Meeting
 - First meeting tentative date in November
 - Four meetings held annually (2 in person, 2 over webinar)
 - Representative from each watershed to attend
 - Project coordinators invited to meetings, but this meeting more focused on other representatives
 - Discussion of what is working in WMA or how to improve WMA
 - Funds available for lodging and transportation

Hydrologic Assessment – Antonio Arenas Amado

- Graduate student thesis project on Upper Wapsipinicon watershed
- Magnitude of floods NOT increasing (relatively same 1968-2011), but flooding and heavy rainfall events are occurring more frequently
 - Flooding in Iowa occurring more frequently (positive trend)
 - Heavy rainfall (severe events) in Iowa occurring more frequently (positive trend)
- May 15, 2013 and June 15, 2013 – accumulation of rainfall events

- May 31, 2013 – extreme rainfall accumulation event in Independence
- Generated from rainfall runoff near Independence
- August 1, 2016 – August 27, 2016 – accumulation of rainfall events
 - August 25, 2016 – extreme rainfall accumulation event in Tripoli
 - Generated from water accumulation upstream coming downstream

IDNR Updates – Mary Beth

- IDNR Pro-Bono services list (free services for WMA as part of IWA)
 - Mary Beth will email services list to WMAs
 - Helpful for WMA as putting budget together
 - Hiring project coordinator
 - Watershed planning activities – GIS mapping, data collection assistance (tillage assessments, stream condition analysis)
 - Project coordinator job description – general template for guidance
 - WMA needs to refine this description to tailor to their need
 - REQUIRED TO INCLUDE – equal opportunity employment section

Tallgrass Prairie Center in Cedar Falls – Ashley Kittle – IWA resource

- Prairie grass farm projects
 - Work with landowners for prairie strips – 3 different mixes (3:1 grass to forge/wildflower, 1:1 grass to forge, 3:1 forge to grass)
 - Recommend 30-40 ft strips, but open to landowners’ preference
 - Several benefits of prairie system – flood protection! (fibrous root system), perennial, soil conservation, biodiversity, pollinator recovery
 - ISU Strips (Science-based Trials of Row crops Integrated with Prairie Strips)
 - 44% reduction in water runoff by 10% prairie implemented in crop fields
- TPC role with WMA - resource for prairie strip conservation project
 - Field day events – demonstrate and train community and organization about prairie strips
 - 9/14 at Dysart – prairie strips and saturated buffer
 - 9/16 at Nashua – prairie strips
 - WMA Meetings
 - Individual consultation

WMA planning: Where do you want sensors to go in Upper Wapsipinicon watershed?

- Independence, Anamosa, Tripoli, other?
- Stream Sensor and Water Quality Data
 - Publicly available on IWQIS
 - Used data to quantify water quantity and water quality
 - Data NOT used for regulatory purposes
 - Cannot pinpoint specific HUC 12, county, or individual source

City of Frederika – requested to join Upper Wapsipinicon watershed - Approved

Northeast RC & D – Lora Friest

- Watershed Community Committee Meetings – continue to meet
 - Decisions of projects: personnel, costs
- Application for UI College of Engineering field work – water project analysis and recommended water conservation projects
 - Alma and Independence were selected in previous years – good experience
 - Priority criteria: design component, element of civil and environmental engineering (hydrology structures, sustainability improvements)
 - Recommendations by Lora if interested in this application: identify contact person that is available for students to work with, local and effective team that includes city council, mayor, or county personnel involvement for more benefits from project, student presentation at end of project
- Communities interested in application can contact Lora
- Craig Just, professor in UI College of Engineering: department is looking to expand water project analysis to graduate students and include drinking water quality projects

WMA Committees

- Personnel needed for executive committee, education committee, and outreach committee
 - Table until next meeting
 - List of personnel already signed up
- Any new committees that need to be formed?

**Next WMA meeting: Tuesday, November 15 at 1:30 PM*

- Flood Resilience Program update

Adjourned at 2:52

August 30, 2016

Upper Wapsipinicon WMA Meeting

Tuesday, August 30, 2016 @ 1:30 PM in Buchanan County

Courthouse Assembly Room, Independence

NAME	ENTITY REPRESENTED	EMAIL ADDRESS	DELEGATE OR ALTERNATE
Elayne Hughes	Quaska		Delegate
Dix Luchage	Bremer - Family, some		Delegate
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]		[REDACTED]
Shannon Paulus	M. Co Bos	-	Delegate
Shanna Bevel	City of Elmer		Delegate
Don Shonku	Buchanan Co		Delegate
John Anderson	Chickasaw Co		Delegate
Rick Holthaus	Chickasaw Co.		Alt.
Brian Johnson	INCOB		No
Boss Eversizer	Northeast Iowa RCTD		No
Laura Finest	"		No
Dean Humblin	Buchanan FB		
Jan Midygen	Howard Co.		Delegate
JOHN SUITE	PROW Independence		No
GREG MABLEY	USGS		
Ashley Kitter	TFC		
Kimberly Thomas	Chickasaw Seed		Delegate
Michael [unclear]	City of Independence		Delegate

SUG. D. [unclear] [unclear]

August 30, 2016

NAME	ENTITY REPRESENTED	EMAIL ADDRESS	DELAGATE OR ALTERNATE
Colley Sherretts	Buch. Co. ISU Extension	Sherretts@iastate.edu	
Ron Lentz	BremerSink B ISU	rlentzs@iastate.edu	Delegate

Warranty
AIT.