

Meeting Minutes

North Raccoon River Watershed Management Coalition Annual Meeting

Friday, March 23, 2018 at 10:00 am

The quarterly meeting of the NRRWMC was called to order at 10:00 am by chair Mark Hanson. Roll call was completed with 22 current board members in attendance which provides a quorum.

Minutes for the January, 26 2018 Annual Meeting were approved (city of Perry moved, Greene county SWCD seconded). Happy birthday to Carroll county SWCD representative Stephen Reinart!

Katie Rock, Polk county SWCD, presented an overview of the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats Analysis (SWOT) conducted at the Annual Meeting. Annual meeting attendees broke out into smaller groups by role (cities, counties, SWCDs, and consultants) to complete the analysis.

Keri Navratil led an overview and approval vote on the Request for Proposals (RFP) draft. Board members were given a chance to recuse themselves, and three members so moved (Kevin Griggs, Susan Judkins and Don Etler).

Planning committee met twice prior to this meeting to draft proposal and timeline. Current planning committee members are: Dale Arends – Buena Vista county, , Mike Beeler – Dallas SWCD, Jack Butler – city of Perry, Jim Frederick – Sac SWCD, Mark Hanson – Dallas county, Alex Leu – city of Fonda, Keri Navratil – city of Storm Lake, Katie Rock – Polk SWCD, Clarence Siepker – Pocahontas county.

All board members are open and welcome to attend and participate in the planning committee. Motion to approve by Polk county, seconded by Green SWCD. Proposal draft and procurement timeline approved.

Procurement Timeline

RFP Publish Date	April 25, 2018
RFP Pre-Bid Meeting	May 10, 2018
RFP Questions Submitted in Writing	May 21, 2018
RFP Due Date	June 11, 2018
Proposals Ranked	June 2018
Interviews & Draft Contract Review	July, 2018
Board Approval	August 24, 2018
Contract Development and Finalization	September 25, 2018
Project Initiation	October 1, 2018

Cara Elbert, grant administrator for the North Raccoon River WMC, presented an overview of the procurement process. Planning committee and board members are invited to participate and understand how her role as grant administrator on the project is critical to ensure compliance

Todd Sutphin, Iowa Soybean Association, and Dustin Miller, Nyemaster Goode, presented on the Nutrient Reduction Exchange (NRE). The presentation began with an overview of point and non-point pollution sources. A nutrient reduction exchange allows urban and rural interests to collaborate on reducing nutrients in drinking water within a watershed. Urban stormwater practices are much less cost effective in reducing nutrient loads than rural and agricultural practices.

Having urban and rural interests in a watershed work together can result in the best use of financial resources to reduce nutrients. Currently, non-point and point sources are collaborating through the use of state revolving loan funds (SRF). Cities are using SRF loans to invest in rural practices including Storm Lake, Des Moines, Eagle Grove, Charles City, Northwood, Dubuque, and Cedar Rapids.

NRE provides opportunity for collaboration, partnerships and new funding sources, especially for rural areas. A project in Iowa is exploring the development of program linking point and non-point sources with a Conservation Innovation Grant from USDA to Iowa League of Cities. The program will not be whole solution but another tool with the goal of cost-effectiveness. NRE is an outcome of this grant and creates a registry for point sources to track investments. The registry allows for tracking and transparency.

“Chesapeake Bay works because it’s a 50/50 split between point and non-point. Iowa is just different,” Dustin Miller. The current program has a goal of a 1:1 ratio in nutrient load reduction between point and non-point source pollution, which would change overtime.

Dan Gilles provided an update from the Iowa Flood Center (IFC). Tony who presented in October 2017 is doing the hydrological assessment for North Raccoon. Today Dan will provide an update of the assessment.

The goal is to develop and run watershed-scale hydrologic models to estimate responses to rainfall events. North Raccoon River HUC-8 is approximately 2470 square miles. Flat terrain and tiling makes the base flow model drag out longer than the hydrologists would like to see. Best management practices (BMP) mapping project looking at water and sediment control basins (WASCOBs), buffer strips, and pond dams.

The model allows the Iowa Flood Center to test flood mitigation under potential scenarios: row crop to perennial conversion, wetlands, on-road detention structures, ponds (where terrain available).

IFC has deployed hydrologic weather stations that collect real-time weather data to help them calibrate their models. Four of twenty stations across the state are placed in North Raccoon. They are looking for a landowner in Calhoun county for another station location (<http://iwa.iowawis.org>).

Kris Kohl, ag engineer with ISU Extension from Buena Vista County gave a highlight of structures around Storm Lake and Outlet Creek that could be improved.

Clarence Siepker, board member from Pocahontas County, shared with the city of Laurens that they have identified projects and are wondering how to proceed. Meetings have been held to identify current

and potential projects in the city of Laurens around city sewers, stormwater and streambank stabilization.

Feedback was given by the grant administrator:

- Projects need to be implemented strategically to have impact towards the goals identified in the HUD grant.
- The procurement process and hiring of project engineer will help us meet the goal of flood mitigation.
- We do not want to spend money unstrategically and end up not meeting our goals, or voiding the terms of the grant agreement and having the grant revoked.
- Money must be spent by September 2021.
- Fastest way to move forward with projects currently identified would be to use other funding sources, if they are available, otherwise cities and counties will have to wait to use HUD grant funding.

Public comments –

- Announcement by Kate Giannini with Iowa Flood Center – Iowa Flood Center will be hosting a bus tour in northeast Iowa in Otter Creek with a stop in Elgin on June 8th. More information to come, flyers available.
- ISU Water Conference was well attended by the NRRWMC with at least half of the room attending. The conference was time well spent and a lot of great information was presented, especially in the breakout sessions. Also a great networking opportunity.
- Between now and next meeting Mark Hanson will work to get new members formally added (Palo Alto county, city of Des Moines, Guthrie county and city of Adel)

Motion to adjourn by chair at 12:05 pm. Unanimous approval.

Next quarterly meeting: June 22, 2018 at 10 am at Stewart Memorial Community Hospital, Conference Center, 1301 W. Main Street, Lake City, Iowa (may be longer than 2 hours).