

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
Heartland Acres Agribition Center
2600 Swan Lake Blvd, Independence
Tuesday, January 9, 2018
1:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Shonka at 1:35 p.m.

Motion and second to approve agenda was made. Motion passed.

Members present: Kip Ladage, City of Readlyn, City of Dunkerton; David Lehman, Bremer County; Ron Lenth, Bremer County SWCD; Frank Magsaman, Black Hawk County; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Abby Beltz & Julie Althaus, Buchanan SWCD; Ken Leichtman & Brian Moore, Chickasaw SWCD; Sylvan Mutschler, City of Frederika; Jan McGovern, Howard County; John Kurtz, City of Independence; Chuck Unga, Linn County; Dave Lease, City of Sumner; Greg Eschweiler, City of Tripoli; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton. Lora Friest, Ross Elsevier, Megan Buckingham, & Tori Hartman of NE Iowa RC&D; Angie Auel, Project Coordinator; and representatives of thirteen additional organizations were present

The October 19, 2017 minutes were approved as read.

New Business

- **Iowa Flood Center Hydrologic Assessment Update - Antonio Arenas, Iowa Flood Center**
 - Antonio gave a slide presentation on Federal Flood Disasters from 1988-2016. (Slides are attached)
 - Iowa ranked 4th in the country with 951 declarations with concentration in Northeast Iowa
 - Iowa ranked 3rd in flood and drought indemnity payments at 7 billion dollars
 - Direct property losses from flooding were 13.5 billion dollars
 - Iowa was in the top 15% of counties in the country with the most disasters per square mile. This included 9 counties in Iowa. Buchanan County was one of the 9 counties.
 - Clayton County had the most declarations in Iowa at 7 in the last 30 years
 - There is an upward trend in disaster declarations
- **Final Summary of 2017 Water Sampling Results – Antonio Arenas**
 - 22 sites were monitored throughout the watershed April through October. This is the 3rd year of monitoring.
 - Antonio gave a presentation on the results for 2017 and compared them to the 2015 and 2016 results.(Maps and charts are attached.)

- Nitrates were high in May and June. Levels were above 10 mg/l.
 - e.Coli levels need the most attention. The levels have been high each year. The months of May and June had the highest levels.
 - A bio-reactor was monitored in Bremer County with excellent results. NO3-N level was 18.7 mg/l in and 2.8 mg/l out. This is a 70% reduction.
- **Watershed Planning Update – Megan Buckingham & Tori Hartman, NE Iowa RC&D**
 - Successful series of 4 open house meetings in November & December
 - Good turnout from landowners, producers, city & county officials, folks involved in soil & water conservation and county conservation, and people impacted by flooding.
 - Meetings were open houses – and made space for constructive dialogue and good input for planning. Participants indicated they value clean water, habitat and healthy soil.
 - PDFs of the posters used at the public meetings are posted on Upper Wapsi website <http://upperwapsi.org/>.
 - Community planning is well underway.
 - RC&D staff and Angie have met with community teams in Winthrop, Quasqueton and Riceville.
 - Other communities are still welcome to participate in community planning! Contact Megan Buckingham at megan@northeastiowarc.org or 563-864-7112 if you want to get a community team meeting together.
 - Emergency Manager Meeting coming up.
 - January 22nd, 1:00-3:00 at Buchanan Co. Public Health building.
 - Purpose is to gather input for plan, share information about flood mitigation & response, and talk about integrating long-term watershed plan with county hazard mitigation plans.
 - Outreach & Education section of the plan underway.
 - Target diverse set of audiences, including rural landowners, urban community members, public officials, and youth?
 - Make sure to incorporate existing success communication, education & outreach into plan.
 - Coming soon: Tour of Otter Creek Projects in Turkey River Watershed sometime in early summer 2018.
- **Update on Administration of HUD Grant – Angie Auel for Paul Berland, NE RC&D**
 - We have been approved for the Release of Funds which means we can begin the process for projects. We need the Environmental Review to be completed on each project.
 - The RFQ is almost complete. It should be published in the next 1-2 weeks. After we receive applications from engineers, the technical committee will review and begin the process of hiring an engineer.
 - Once the engineer is hired we can get project cost estimates and begin the Environmental Review.

- **Project Coordinator Update – Angie Auel**
 - Six project applications have been submitted however neighbors to these applicants are very interested in coming on board with more projects.
 - Two land owners are expressing interest in wetland/oxbow restorations.
 - The Iowa DNR potentially has two very large projects on land near the Frank Lloyd Wright house – one a large oxbow restoration and the second placing a dam in the creek and creating a pond/wetland area.
 - Brian Keierleber would like to reduce bridge size which creates backwater. Angie would work with him to request easements from landowners to allow for the placement of a smaller structure.
 - The City of Quasqueton has submitted an application for a project which will impact 35 homes and 87 people.

Next Meeting

- A date for the next meeting has not yet been determined.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes
Secretary