

# UPPER WAPSIPINICON WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY

The Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority (UWRWMA) held a meeting on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 in the Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room, Independence, Iowa. Members present: Dustin Sage, Black Hawk County SWCD; Frank Magsamen, Black Hawk County; Ron Lenth, Bremer County SWCD; Kip Ladage, Bremer County; Don Shonka & Gary Gissel, Buchanan County; John Andersen & Brian Moore, Chickasaw County; Shannon Gebel, City of Elma; Jeanine Tellin, Fayette County; Bryan O'Day, City of Fredericksburg; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Mike Lenius, City of Independence; Dennis Goemaat, Linn County; Robert Martin, City of New Hampton; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Gregg Eschweiler, City of Tripoli. Ross Evelsizer from RC & D and eight additional communities/organizations were present.

The meeting was called to order by Don Shonka at 1:30 p.m.

Motion and second to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Buchanan County Auditor, Cindy Gosse proceeded with roll call, 16 members present.

Discussion was held regarding the draft by-laws. Motion and second to add "year" in Article V subsection C. Motion carried. Motion and second to adopt the by-laws. All in favor, motion carried.

The committee proceeded to elect officers as follows: Don Shonka, Chairman; Gary Gissel, Vice-Chairman and Elaine Hughes, Secretary.

Motion and second to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2014 meeting as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Ross Evelsizer from RC & D shared a pamphlet on "Iowa's Watershed Management Authorities" which explains the purpose and necessity of watershed management authorities. RC & D can assist with the planning goals of UWRWMA; they have worked with the Turkey Watershed Authority. A Planning Committee should be established with 5-6 members from each group represented to develop plans before the next grant cycle. To assist with planning individuals from other WSA's could attend a future meeting and share what they have done. Some of the current membership belongs to other WSA's and they also could share information. The DNR website has watershed information that can be accessed.

Cindy Gosse updated the committee on recruitment efforts in January of the eligible members before the final 28E agreement was filed. The final agreement was recorded with the Iowa Secretary of State with 30 members.

Shaffer Ridgeway from Black Hawk/Bremer NRCS presented a map of water monitoring sites. Some of the sites have been tested in the past and several have been identified as new monitoring sites. Elaine Hughes reported on quotes she received from area colleges and universities for testing the water samples. Coe College will run five tests at each site for \$20; approximately \$1,500 per month. Professor Marty Sinclair proposed a flat fee of \$5,000 for the collection and testing. Lengthy discussion was held on funding the tests. The UWRWMA membership encourages water monitoring on the Upper Wapsi by the Soil & Water Conservation Districts and if grant funding becomes available the UWRWMA will provide funding.

Ross Evelsizer reported a website has been developed for the placement of information regarding the UWRWMA. The membership and public can access the following website: [www.upperwapsi.org](http://www.upperwapsi.org).

Ralph Kremer provided a handout regarding Americorp and other Volunteers Opportunities for Assistance.

New Business:

Ross Evelsizer presented three sample logos for the UWRWMA. With a show of hands logo number one was adopted.

Ralph Kremer reported on the statewide water management authority meeting held January 28, 2015. Approximately 40 people were present; a report was received from each established authority.

Ross Evelsizer suggested the establishment of a Public Relations/Communications Committee to possibly help design a brochure to educate/inform the public on the UWRWMA and other public education measures. Gary Gissel, John Kurtz, Don Shonka, Roxanne Fuller and Greg Eschweiler volunteered to serve.

To assist with developing planning goals a Planning Committee was established with the following members: James Ehr, Dan Cohen, Dennis Goemaat, Brian Moore and Don Shonka.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. in the Buchanan County courthouse assembly room.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Gosse  
Acting Secretary