

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room
210 5th Ave. N.E., Independence, Iowa
Tuesday December 1, 2015
1:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

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

Motion and second to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Members present: Lanny Schwartz, Black Hawk SWCD; Frank Magsamen, Black Hawk County; Ron Lenth, Bremer County, & Bremer SWCD; Don Shonka & Gary Gissel, Buchanan County; Abby Beltz, Buchanan SWCD; John Andersen & Rick Holthaus, Chickasaw County; Kim Leichtman, Chickasaw SWCD; Chris Eby, Delaware County SWCD; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Chuck Unga, Linn County; Shannon Paulus, Mitchell County; Greg Eschweiler, City of Tripoli; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Mary Ryan, City of Winthrop. Ross Elsevier of NE Iowa RC&D and nine additional organizations were present.

The October, 2015 minutes were approved as read.

Old Business

- **Water sampling update:** Ross Elsevier distributed a spreadsheet with results of the water testing through the month of October. Problem areas were highlighted. Nitrogen levels were higher than the normal range in every site in the spring and early summer. It was at or below normal range in the late summer and fall. The other problem area is E. coli. The standard is 126 CFUs. All the sites tested were above that number with several areas with values over 1000 CFUs. Need to look at sites with values over 1000 CFUs.

The final sampling for 2015 was completed in November. The same sites will continue to be monitored during the months April through November of 2016.

- **Update on National Disaster Resilience Competition application:** Ross Elsevier reported that the State of Iowa has submitted the grant. The UWRWMA was included in the amount of \$4,500,000.00 with money for planning included. Results will be announced in the spring of 2016.
- **Update on the Iowa 319 Planning Grant:** Ross Elsevier reported that the UWRWMA did not receive the \$100,000.00 grant. Clear Creek Watershed in east central Iowa received the grant.
- **Update on City of Dunkerton REAP Grant:** The City of Dunkerton was awarded a \$50,000.00 REAP grant to develop a wetland. The UWRWMA had provided a letter of support for the City for Dunkerton's application.

New Business:

- **University of Iowa College of Engineering Partnership for Community SMART Planning and Design through Northeast Iowa RC&D and the Iowa Initiative for Sustainable Communities:**

The purpose of this initiative is to develop storm water management plans for communities in the state. The engineering students develop plans for two communities each spring semester. This year they will develop storm water implementation plans for Independence and Elma. This saves tens of thousands of dollars as there are no costs to the communities. The plans will be ready in April or May.

- **Planning for and discussion of upcoming WMA Board meetings:**

- **Speakers**

- Marybeth Stevenson, Iowa DNR: worked on coordination for the Cedar River Watershed Alliance
- Wayne Peterson, Johnson County NRCS of SWCD – perhaps the best known expert on urban soil and water conservation techniques
- Perhaps a habitat specialist from Pheasants Forever – they could speak about the landowner projects they've help promote and sign up for practices.
- Iowa Flood Center – they have some great scientific research they could share about flood monitoring, effectiveness of conservation practices, etc.

- **Committee Reports – Executive, Education & Outreach, Community Committees**

- **Other WMA Meetings and Conferences:**

- WMA Coordination Meeting (Iowa DNR 319 Program) – 2/3/2016 in Polk County
- Iowa Water Conference (Iowa State University Extension and Outreach) – March 23-24, 2016 Scheman Building, Ames
- Growing Iowa Sustainable Communities Conference - October 2016, Dubuque
- Green Lands Blue Waters – November 2016

Next Meeting

- Next meeting will be Wednesday, February 17, 2016 at 1:30 in the Buchanan County courthouse meeting room.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes
Secretary