

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room
210 5th Ave. N.E., Independence, Iowa
Tuesday, February 21, 2017
1:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

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

Motion and second to approve the agenda was made. Motion carried.

Members present: Kip Ladage, City of Readlyn, Bremer County, & City of Fredericka; Ron Lenth, Bremer County SWCD; Frank Magsaman, Black Hawk County; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Steve Geerts, Chickasaw County; Ken Leichtman, Chickasaw County SWCD; Chris Eiby, Delaware County SWCD; Shannon Gebel, City of Elma; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Al Roder, City of Independence; Tom Mullen, Linn County SWCD, Chuck Unga, Linn County; Greg Eschweiler, City of Tripoli; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Shawn Curtis, City of Winthrop. Ross Evelsizer, Paul Berland, Megan Buckingham of NE Iowa RC&D and representatives of twelve additional organizations were present.

The November 15, 2016 minutes were approved as read.

New Business

- **Update on Iowa watershed Approach and Hydrologic Assessment Work**

Ashlee Johannes with the Iowa Flood Center presented the highlights of the survey on flood resiliency. The results were varied. It was felt that flooding was most likely to occur in the City of Independence and small communities with less money. It was noted that ag groups and county engineers should be involved in the IWA and flood resilience activities.

Antonio Arenas presented a Powerpoint on hydrologic assessment work to date. (See the slide presentation that is attached for details and watershed maps.) Predominant land use is row crops with some forested and urban areas. North end of watershed is 800-1300 feet above flood level with the low point at Anamosa. Some Karst and clay. Annual rainfall for the Wapsipinicon Watershed is 33" to 38" per year with 43" in 2016 in some places. Stream flows have increased from .1 in 1936 to .5 - .7 in 2014.

Antonio also presented slides with the results of the 2015 & 2016 water quality monitoring. (See the attached Powerpoint slides for details.) E. coli and Nitrate levels were high both years with levels higher in 2016 due to more rain. Highest levels of E. coli and Nitrates are found in the month of June. Lowest levels in the month of September. 20 sites were monitored in 2015 and 21 sites were monitored in 2016. Monitoring is in streams flowing into the Wapsipinicon River.

- **Watershed Planning Update**

Ross Evelsizer with NE Iowa RC&D gave update on a planning timeline.

- Howard County Supervisors selected the NE Iowa RC&D to do the planning
- February 2017 planning begins
- A 20 year watershed resiliency plan will be prepared
- Each entity needs to think about their needs and develop their plans with the help of NE Iowa RC&D

- February 1 – working on creating a website
- Gathering information, GIS data, watershed geology, maps and historical data

The strategy will be to do no harm if what is here already functions and to implement low risk strategies.

Next steps include:

- Developing a survey to see if counties can share parcel data and gauge interest/participation
- Hold Public Meetings – 2-4 meeting in different parts of the watershed
- Develop community teams to assess needs/project ideas. Should include at least one city council member
- Develop hazard negation plans with emergency management personnel

- **Reports from Community Representatives**

Dunkerton and Winthrop were selected for University of Iowa College of Engineering Assistance. Both communities had visits from the engineering students.

The City of Readlyn received state revolving funds to for Bio Retention Ponds to contain water before it hits Crane Creek.

- **BCCB February 28th Landowner's/Land Operator's Workshop**

Dan Cohen reported that the Buchanan County Conservation Board is having a workshop to provide information about planning and project opportunities through a grant received by the Upper Wapsipinicon Watershed Authority. The NE Iowa RC&D will be there to help answer questions.

- **Report on January 26th Iowa Watershed Advisory Board Meeting**

Kip Ladage reported that there was a very good discussion with other watershed members on several interesting topics. Felicia Campbell gave a presentation about hiring a WMA Project Coordinator. One of the biggest tips was to offer appropriate compensation so the right person will be hired and stay on the job.

- **Report on February 7th Annual Watershed Management Authorities Meeting**

Watershed numbers are increasing with 17 active watershed authorities in Iowa. They are currently working out details on how they can work with various entities to work together to advance water quality.

- **Committee Reports**

Technical Committee members include: Brian Keierleber, Ron Lenth, Dan Cohen, Mary Beth Stevenson, Don Shonka, Abby Beltz, Brian Moore, Dennis Goemaat and a UI contact. They plan to meet when good data maps have been prepared and a project coordinator has been hired.

Public Relations/Committee members include: Don Shonka, Ashley Sherrets, Greg Eschweiler, Chuck Unga, Gary Gissel and John Kurtz.

Project Coordinator Committee members include: Mike Lenius, Frank Magnesman, Mary Beth Stevenson, Felicia Campbell, Don Shonka, Bob Muchmore and Abby Beltz. Paul Berland

reported that the coordinator will be housed at the Buchanan County SWCD office. Need to work on paperwork and the begin hiring process. They hope to have a person hired by the next meeting.

- **Water Monitoring Needs for 2017**

The Iowa Flood Center will install a water monitor in the Wapsipinicon River. The location is yet to be decided. Elaine Hughes will coordinate the water monitoring again in 2017. Iowa Flood Center would like to have 3 years of data with attention to E. coli. Elaine will be contacting the counties and persons involved in the past monitoring.

- **Other**

Ashley Sherrets reported that the Extension Service has scheduled an Iowa Rivers Revival Course in May. Forward more information later.

Next Meeting - May 16, 2017 at 1:30 in the Buchanan County courthouse assembly room.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes
Secretary