

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room
210 5th Ave. N.E., Independence, Iowa
Tuesday, May 16, 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, City of Dunkerton & City of Fredericka; David Lehman, Bremer County; Ron Lenth, Bremer County SWCD & City of Sumner; Frank Magsaman, Black Hawk County; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Steve Geerts, Chickasaw County; Chris Eiby, Delaware County SWCD; Jan McGovern, Howard County; John Kurtz, City of Independence; Chuck Unga & Dennis Goemaat, Linn County; Shannon Paulus, Mitchell County and Mitchell County NCRS; Greg Eschweiler, City of Tripoli; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Mary Ryan, City of Winthrop. Lora Friest, Ross Elsevier, Megan Buckingham, & Paul Berland of NE Iowa RC&D; and representatives of fourteen additional organizations were present.

The February 21, 2017 minutes were approved as read.

New Business

- **IWA Flood Resilience Update – Craig Just, Ashlee Johannes**

A handout was distributed outlining the resilience team goals and current flood resilience products. The goals include:

- Measure, visualize, and communicate flood resilience resources
- Enhance flood resilience content in formal watershed plans
- Improve social resources for flood resilience

Current flood resilience products include:

- Interactive flood damage estimations. A tool has been developed to assist watersheds prioritize projects.
- Measurement and visualization of financial and displacement burdens suffered by residents who are impacted by floods within a watershed.
- Enhancement of formal watershed mitigation plans utilizing the “nine-element” framework provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

- **IWA Hydrologic Assessment Update – Antonio Arenas, Breanna Shea**

Antonio gave an update on the Iowa BMP (Best Management Practices) Mapping Project. The goal is to provide a complete baseline set of BMPs dating from the 2007-2010 timeframe for use in watershed modeling, historic occurrence, and future practice tracking. The BMPs being mapped are: Terraces, Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB), Grassed Waterways, Pond Dams, Contour Strip Cropping and Contour Buffer Strips. Estimated conservation costs are included. About ½ of the watersheds have been completed.

Antonio identified the Silver Creek/Buffalo Creek sub-watershed near Ryan, Iowa as the area for

utilization of the HUD grant funds. They are assessing the following:

- Existing and potential grassed waterways using the ACPF Tool for recommended lines and the IBMP Mapping to identify existing waterways - 93% already done
- Existing and potential water & sediment control basins – a lot of potential, estimated \$650,000 could be spent
- Nutrient removal wetlands – 77 wetlands with estimated cost of \$14,000,000 – \$20,000,000

Plan to install 2 Hydrologic Sensor Networks - 1 in Buchanan County and 1 in Bremer County. They will monitor rain, soil moisture, shallow ground water and wind speed.

- **Watershed Planning Update – NE Iowa RC&D – Ross and Megan**

Ross reported that they are working on a long-term resiliency plan for the whole watershed. He facilitated a discussion on watershed goals, vision and objectives. NE Iowa RC&D is working with several partners on watershed characteristics including: sub-watersheds, background information, research and analysis, planning based on community meetings, and strategies upstream and downstream.

Megan reported that they are working on a watershed survey that will be sent out to 1500 people in early June. The results of the survey will be used to inform the watershed plan, be a guide to the selection of sub-watersheds for implementation, and direct & support future fundraising for implementation of projects.

One important component of the survey will be stories from people who live in the watershed. They want to know about personal experiences with flooding and other problems, as well as, positive experiences about the importance of the river for recreational purposes and to their communities.

- **Updates on the University of Iowa Department of Engineering Community Assistance**

- **Winthrop** – Mary Ryan reported that Winthrop has a drainage ditch problem. It was determined that an option to their problem could be the construction of a retention pond. This could be a resource enhancement with a bike trail, planting of native trees and benches. It was a great experience.
- **Dunkerton** – Lora Friest reported that Dunkerton also had a great experience and would like to give a report at the next meeting.

- **Committee Updates –**

- **Project Coordinator Committee**

Paul Berland reported that the application deadline for the Project Coordinator was May 12th. They have several strong candidates. He will be lining up interviews the week of May 15th.

- **Community Committee Meeting 4/21**

Ten communities participated in the meeting. An overview of the watershed was presented. Tripoli reported on a project that was completed in their community. Each community is to select a team to identify problems areas in their communities. NE Iowa RC&D will be setting up meetings with the community teams. The meetings will be held in New Hampton, Independence and Tripoli.

- **Water Monitoring Update – Elaine Hughes**
Elaine reported that the same people and entities have, as in the past, agreed to conduct and pay for water sampling at 21 sites in the watershed for the third year. The analysis of the samples will be conducted by Coe College. The first sampling was conducted May 1st. Results are attached.
- **Officers for 7/1/2017-6/30/2019**
A motion was made and seconded to re-elect the current officers to again serve for the 7/1/2017-6/30/2019 term. The motion passed. Officers include: Chairman – Don Shonka, Vice-Chairman – Gary Gissel, and Elaine Hughes – Secretary.

Next Meeting - To be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes
Secretary