**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority**

**Buchanan County Public Health Building**

**1413 1st St. West, Independence, Iowa**

**Tuesday, October 16, 2018**

**1:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

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

Motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. Motion passed.

**Members present:** Kip Ladage, Bremer SWCD, City of Frederika & City of Tripoli; David Lehman, Bremer County; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Julie Althaus, Buchanan SWCD; Steve Geertz & Brian Moore, Chickasaw County; Jan McGovern, Howard County; John Kurtz, City of Independence; Chuck Ungs, Linn County; Steven Smolik, Mitchell County; Dan Wedemeier, City of Readlyn; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Curtis Behrens, City of Sumner; Mary Ryan, City of Winthrop; Lora Friest, Ross Evelsizer & Tori Nimrod of NE Iowa RC&D; Angie Auel, Project Coordinator; Luke Monat, Shive-Hattery; and representatives of seven additional organizations

Minutes of the July 17, 2018 meeting were approved as read.

**New Business**

* **IWA Hydro Update - Antonio Arenas, Iowa Flood Center**

Antonio reported on the hydrological model for the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed which has been completed. An analysis of the benefits of various flood reduction practices can be completed to estimate the reduction in rain transferred into stream flows. Rainfall/stream flow data is available for the years 2002-2016.

1/3 of the rainfall runs into the streams annually with the average on the increase. It is expected that there will be increases in the heaviest precipitation events in the future. Money lost due to flooding in the last 30 years is 13.5 billion in property loss and 4 billion in crop loss with 951 disaster declarations. In the last 30 years, Iowa has ranked 4th in the country for disaster declarations due to flooding.

According to climate scientists the heavy downpours will continue to get heavier. The annual rainfall amount will remain the same (30”-40” annually) with fewer but heavier rainfalls and stretches of drought.

* **Readlyn Storm Water Wetland Project Update – Dan Wedemeier, Mayor of Readlyn and Luke Monat, Shive-Hattery**

Dan reported that Readlyn received two grants equaling $405,000.00 to improve Malone Street water quality run-off after heavy rains. The money will be used to purchase 7.1 adjoining acres for a wetland development project with a walking path around the wetland. An education/outreach component will be developed upon completion.

Luke gave a power point presentation on the engineering, construction and costs of the wetland project. Construction is expected to begin the end of October or beginning of November with June 30th as the completion date.

* **Watershed Planning Update – Ross Evelsizer, NE Iowa RC&D**

Ross reported that they are looking at land use, cover crops, ponds, etc. using Antonio’s analysis at the Iowa Flood Center for development of the Watershed Plan. 76% of the land in the watershed is agricultural, which is 10% higher than the rest of the state. The the long, narrow shape of the watershed is a problem. They are looking at practices and understanding field areas.

Some farmers are expressing interest in multi-cropping scenarios throughout the world in conjunction with no-till. NE Iowa RC&D held a meeting on the topic at the request of a Fayette County farmer who currently is doing some multi-cropping. They have received grant to measure the economics, marketability and soil health.

Ross announced the Northeast Iowa Regional Urban Stormwater Demonstration Site in Postville is now open. It provides real-life examples of several different urban stormwater conservation practices. It is an outdoor classroom for community leaders, teachers and students from around the region. The RC&D has also developed correlating lesson plans and hands-on learning for teachers and students who visit the site.

* **Project Coordinator Update – Angie Auel**

Angie announced that qualifying flood-reduction practices could be eligible for up to 90% cost-share assistance to implement small-scale practices. Cost estimates for 8 concepts have been priced with 4 a go. Three have questions or changes. Shive-Hattery is working on 11 more. 2.7 million dollars will be available for construction. See attached slides for more details.

Next steps include: entering practices in to the Best Management Practice Tracker, contacting Earthview Environmental to begin Archeological Review, and application approval by the WMA Technical Committee.

Steps to complete over the winter include: clearing Archeological Review or a Phase 1 Review; engineer completing a preliminary survey, investigation & design; and beginning environmental evaluations.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting will be in January. Date and location to be announced.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine Hughes, Secretary