

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room
210 5th Ave. N.E., Independence, Iowa
Tuesday March 8, 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: Jennifer Trent, Black Hawk SWCD; Frank Magsamen, Black Hawk County; Kip Ladage, Bremer County, & Bremer SWCD; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Abby Beltz, Buchanan SWCD; John Andersen & Rick Holthaus, Chickasaw County; Kim Leichtman, Chickasaw SWCD; Chris Eby, Delaware County SWCD; Shannon Gebel, City of Elma; Jeanine Tellin, Fayette County; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Mike Lenius, City of Independence; Chuck Unga, Linn County; Shannon Paulus, Mitchell County; Greg Eschweiler, City of Tripoli; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Mary Ryan, City of Winthrop. Lora Friest & Ross Evelsizer of NE Iowa RC&D and thirteen additional organizations were present.

The December 1, 2015 minutes were approved as read.

Old Business

- **Water sampling update**

Ross Evelsizer distributed maps displaying areas of high nitrate and E. coli levels found in the 2015 sampling sites. Three areas were found to be high in E. coli levels and one area was found to be high in nitrate levels. At this time, more testing needs to be done to establish baselines in order to select projects for future construction, as monies become available.

- **Update on National Disaster Resilience Competition application**

Larry Weber, IIHR(Iowa Institute of Hydraulic Research)-Hydroscience and Engineering, presented information on the HUD grant the Upper Wapsi Watershed is to receive. Iowa is the recipient of a HUD grant in the amount of \$96,889,177.00 for flood risk reduction and water quality improvement. The grant committee was impressed with the Iowa's unique Watershed Partnerships and received the 4th largest grant. The Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed will be receiving \$4,386,969.00. Draft budget includes: \$2,797,500 for projects, \$375,000 for project coordinator, \$225,000 for planning, \$169,404 for design and 505,065 for model/sensors/data collection and evaluation.

It is a 5-year project. A hydrologic assessment will be completed the first year. They will look for volunteer landowners for participation in practices to reduce flood risk. Construction will begin in 2015 and wrap up in 5 years. Some of the practices will include: ponds, wetlands, bio-swales and saturated buffers.

A kick-off community meeting is to be held in late May or early June.

- **Update on UI College of Engineering Partnership storm water management implementations for communities of Independence and Elma**

Lora Friest reported that there has been one meeting in each of the cities. Engineers have toured Elma and Independence with representatives of each city. Elma has a problem with flooding at a viaduct caused by an issue east of the city. In Independence, representatives toured the Malone Creek area in the NE part of the city, the Mental Health Institute and the High School. April 11th is the date at which plans are to be ready for each of the cities. They would like to have more communities in the watershed submitted in the future. Lora Friest will set up a Community Committee meeting which is to be held this spring.

New Business:

- **Water monitoring – 2016**

The same 20 sites will be monitored again in 2016 from April through November for a total of 11 samplings. If anyone has a site they would like to add, now would be the time to do it. Coe College will, once again, do the analysis. Elaine Hughes will contact the monitors with further details regarding dates, instruction and cost per sample.

- **Iowa Watersheds Decision – IIHR Support System**

Ross Evelsizer reported on the Statewide Watershed Management Authority meeting held this winter. It was a gathering of representatives from all of the current WMA's in Iowa as well as leaders from Iowa DNR, IDALS, and the Iowa Flood Center. The purpose of the meeting was to share ideas and network with other WMAs and partner organizations. Iowa now has 15 watersheds.

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

No reports.

Next Meeting

- Next meeting will be late May or early June. It will be a kick-off community meeting for the HUD grant which will be coordinated with Larry Weber, Director of IIHR Hydroscience and Engineering.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes
Secretary