

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room
210 5th Ave. N.E., Independence, Iowa
Tuesday, June 14, 2016
1:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

Upper Wapsipinicon River WMA/HUD Grant Kickoff Meeting

- Jeff Geerts, IDEA Project Manager – Watershed Projects, opened the kickoff presentation with partnership introductions. Partners included: UI – Iowa Flood Center, Iowa Economic Development Authority, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, ISU Extension and Outreach, University of Northern Iowa and Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed members. Over 70 people attended the meeting. Over 40 organizations, cities, counties, SWCDs, NRCSs, landowners, etc. were represented.
- Larry Weber, Director of IIHR-Hydroscience & Engineering and co-founder of the Iowa Flood Center, presented an overview of the Iowa Watershed Approach. Following the overview he presented information on the \$96,889,166.00 HUD grant Iowa received for flood risk reduction and water quality improvement. The Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed will be receiving \$4,386,969.00. The grant committee was impressed with Iowa’s watershed approach and considered it a possible model for the rest of the country.
- Marybeth Stevenson with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources addressed the group.
- The kickoff portion of the meeting ended with a discussion/question & answer period.

Upper Wapsipinicon River Management Authority Business Meeting

The business portion of the meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Shonka at 3:00 p.m.

Motion and second to approve the amended agenda to include a presentation by Yibing Su was made. Motion carried.

Members present: Jennifer Trent, Black Hawk SWCD; Frank Magsamen, Black Hawk County; Kip Ladage, Bremer County; Ron Lenth, Bremer SWCD; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Julie Althaus, Buchanan SWCD; John Andersen & Rick Holthaus, Chickasaw County; Kim Leichtman, Chickasaw SWCD; Chris Eiby, Delaware County SWCD; Shannon Gebel, City of Elma; Jeanine Tellin, Fayette County; Mike Lenius, City of Independence; Chuck Ungs & Dennis Goemaat, Linn County; Thomas Mullen and Jeremy Barnes, Linn County SWCD; Shannon Paulus, Mitchell County; Greg Eschweiler, City of Tripoli; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Mary Ryan, City of Winthrop. Ross Evelsizer & Paul Berland of NE Iowa RC&D, Marty St. Clair of Coe College, and several additional organizations were present.

The March 8, 2016 minutes were approved as amended.

Old Business

- **City of Independence Storm Water Management Initiative** – Yibing Su, Research Assistant, IIHR – Hydroscience & Engineering, University of Iowa.

Malone Creek watershed was identified as a problem area for flash flooding from storm water runoff at 3rd St. NE in the City of Independence. It was decided that the best solution to reduce flooding was to construct a low head dam at the intersection with 205th St. and to excavate the channel at the downtown bridge intersection on 3rd St. NE. A 5-year plan was designed with construction costs estimated at \$120,000.00. The construction of the dam would be on county owned land.

- **Water monitoring/quality updates** – Ross Evelsizer, RC&D & Marty St. Clair, Professor of Chemistry, Coe College

Ross Evelsizer distributed maps of the April-May 2016 nitrate levels for April – May 2016. Nitrate levels were high in some sampling locations as indicated on the map. We do not have figures to compare with last year, at this time, since most locations did not begin sampling until the end of June or July. It was noted that the nitrate levels are usually higher during the spring months and level off in the later summer. Marty St. Clair addressed questions regarding water monitoring.

New Business

- **Committee Reports** – There were no committee reports.
- **Other -**
Rick Wulfekuhl, Buchanan County EMA, announced that the DNR Mobile Unit - The "**Cause and Effect: Your Eco Story**" exhibit will be at the Buchanan County Fair this year. It is an all-inclusive experience that includes informative displays, interactive kiosks, educational videos and more.

Next Meeting

The next meeting date will again be coordinated with the Iowa Flood Center and announced later.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes
Secretary