

**Upper Wapsipicon River Watershed Management Authority
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room
210 5th Ave. N.E., Independence, Iowa
Tuesday, August 30, 2016
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 Tripoli; Ron Lenth, Bremer County SWCD and Bremer County; Don Shonka and Gary Gissel, Buchanan County; Julie Althaus, Buchanan County SWCD; John Andersen & Rick Holthaus, Chickasaw County; Kim Leichtman, Chickasaw County SWCD; Shannon Gebel, City of Elma; Jeanine Tellin, Fayette County; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Mike Lenius & Al Roder, City of Independence; Chuck Unga, Linn County; Thomas Mullen, Linn County SWCD; Shannon Paulus, Mitchell County; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton. Sheila Steffen, City of Dunkerton; Lora Friest & Ross Elsevier of NE Iowa RC&D and representatives of eight additional organizations were present.

The June 14, 2016 minutes were approved as read.

New Business

- **Iowa Watershed Approach Project Update & Website** – Breanna Shea, Iowa Flood Center Outreach Coordinator

The official hard start for the project will begin as soon as the IDA contract is in place. They are hoping to have the details worked out sometime in September. A website for the Iowa Watershed Approach is currently under construction. The Upper Wapsipicon Watershed will have a link on this site which includes data collected and watershed characteristics. An advisory board meeting will be scheduled sometime during the fourth quarter. A representative from each of the watersheds will be selected to attend these meetings. A hydrologic assessment will be completed as soon as the contract is in place.

Antonio Arenas, Assistant Research Scientist with IIHR-Hydroscience & Engineering, presented information on flooding trends. Data analysis shows that the magnitude of the floods is stable but floods are occurring more frequently. They have analyzed data from 1962 to 2011. This information will be available on the website under development. Increased flooding is impacted by more extreme rainfalls, land cover, and moisture conditions.

- **Iowa Watershed Approach – Updates from Project Partners**

Mary Beth Stevenson with the Iowa DNR reported that the DNR can provide technical assistance to the watershed. She distributed a list of services they could provide. They could also help write a Position Opening/Job Description Announcement for a Project Coordinator.

Ashley Kittle with the UNI Tallgrass Prairie Center gave a presentation on installing prairie strips on farm fields. They will work with landowners in planting the strips. Benefits of these strips include: flood protection, nutrient reduction, soil conservation, flowers for pollinators, and wildlife habitat.

- **National Resiliency Advisory Council UWRWMA Representative**

This council has been formed to bring representatives from each of the Watershed Management Authorities together. The first meeting will be at the Neal Smith Wildlife Center near Prairie City. A motion was made and seconded to appoint Kip Ladage as Representative and Don Shonka as Alternate. Motion passed.

- **Water Monitoring Discussion: Existing & Potential, WQIS**

Ross Evelsizer with NE Iowa RC&D led a discussion on the current and future placement of rain gages and water quality monitors in the Wapsipinicon River. It was agreed that Antonio Arenas from the Iowa Flood Center would analyze the water quality data the watershed has gathered over the past two years before making a decision.

- **Request for UWRWMA membership from City of Frederika**

Kip Ladage made a motion to accept the City of Frederika's request for membership in the UWRWMA. The motion was seconded and passed.

- **University of Iowa Community Engineering Projects – Purpose, 2017 Submission**

Lora Friest announced that the University of Iowa's College of Engineering will be accepting applications again this fall from Iowa communities for the development of storm water management plans. Engineering students will develop plans for projects in two communities in the spring of 2017. Each community will need to provide a contact person who is reachable and an effective local team to tour the site with the students. After the project design is completed the student will present the plan. Grant money might be available for financing the projects. The communities of Independence and Elma were selected in 2016.

- **Committee and Public Meetings Discussion**

There were no committee reports. No action taken on new committees.

Other Business

Ron Lenth announced that there would be a free program on how woodchip bioreactors work to reduce nutrient loss on Tuesday, September 13th, 10:00 – 11:30 am. Meet at the Tom Manson farm, Tripoli – field on Hwy 63 & 160th. In case of rain meet at the Bremer Extension Office.

Next Meeting - November 15, 2016 at 1:30 in the Buchanan County courthouse assembly room.

Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes
Secretary