

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room
210 5th Ave. N.E., Independence, Iowa
Tuesday, August 22, 201
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 passed.

Members present: Kip Ladage, City of Readlyn, Bremer County; David Lehman, Bremer County; Ron Lenth, Bremer County SWCD; Frank Magsaman, Black Hawk County; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Steve Geerts, Chickasaw County; Ken Leichtman, Chickasaw SWCD; Chris Eiby, Delaware County SWCD; Sheila Steffen, City of Dunkerton; Jan McGovern, Howard County; Mike Lenius & John Kurtz, City of Independence; Chuck Unga, Linn County; Shannon Paulus, Mitchell County and Mitchell County NCRS; Dave Lease, City of Sumner; 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; Angie Auel, Project Coordinator; and representatives of eleven additional organizations were present.

The May 16, 2017 minutes were approved as read.

New Business

- **Iowa Geological Survey overview and report on geology unique to the Upper Wapsi Watershed – Stephanie Surine and Ryan Clark**

Stephanie and Ryan presented an overview of the work and services provided by the Iowa Geological Survey. They have been providing technical assistance on the geologic and hydrologic information needed for developing a comprehensive Upper Wapsipinicon River watershed management plan.

- **Report on recent heavy rains in the area – Antonio Arenas, Iowa Flood Center**

Precipitation was very high in the upper part of the Wapsi Watershed in June, especially Bremer County. In July the northeast part of the state was very wet with Fayette, Bremer & Chickasaw Counties receiving downpours of 8-9 inches and more in some areas. The rest of the state was very dry. Of the 13,000 days of rainfall data, July 2017 was the wettest July to date. The state is seeing big swings between drought and heavy rains.

- **Survey from University of Iowa Center for Evaluation & Assessment – Julie Kearney**

Julie distributed survey forms to attendees for the evaluation and assessment of the watershed meetings and the information presented at the meetings. They were to be returned at the end of the meeting.

- **Introduction of new Project Coordinator Angie Auel**

Angie began her work July 3rd. She has been working with NE Iowa RC&D and landowners to select sub watersheds for potential implementation of nutrient reduction projects which will be funded by the HUD grant. After a review of the information presented, a motion was made, seconded and carried by members of the watershed to select the following sub watersheds: Sand Creek, Dry Creek and Smith Creek.

Going forward, Angie plans to meet with the Technical Committee, Communications/PR Committee and attend the community meetings which have scheduled. Public informational meetings will be held in the fall after harvest season. The Technical Committee will be making the decision on what practices are placed for the HUD grant.

- **Update on UI Department of Engineering Community Assistance Project – Sheila Steffen, Dunkerton**

Dunkerton has a problem with street flooding and soil run-off from surrounding farmland after heavy rains. A plan was designed by UI engineering students to construct a water retention pond with recreational aspects which includes walking trails, fishing and docks. The city council is excited about the design and would like to proceed with the project if they can obtain funding.

- **Watershed Planning Update Northeast Iowa RC&D**

Engagement

- RC&D team has been meeting, and in communication, with statewide partners to discuss plan content requirements and the role that the different state partners will play in data and information collection and analysis for the plan.
- RC&D team has been meeting with, providing assistance to, and trying to determine how best to collaborate, coordinate with, and support Project Coordinator Angie Auel. (Providing analytical tools including maps, sharing background information, media lists, and partner contact information, etc.)
- Megan has been updating the website, doing press releases and supporting the WMA Secretary with information distribution.
- RC&D team has been developing public meeting content. (4- 6 public meetings will start once community meetings are wrapping up and after harvest.)

- RC&D team continues to implement community meetings: developing content, organizing and implementing – ongoing – More about that later.
- Develop, distribute and compile information from the survey of watershed residents
 - Distributed to 1,300 residents
 - Approximately 20% have been returned with more still coming in daily
 - If you received one or know someone who did, please return/encourage others to do the same.
 - Although we will present findings at the next meeting, Megan will share a few findings that you might find interesting today. Remember, this is not final as more surveys are expected to be returned.

Watershed Analytics

Ross is in the process of gathering and cataloging spatial data from local, state and Federal sources for a multitude of watershed characteristics.

After securing spatial data for the region or state, Ross has been working to isolate the Upper Wapsi Watershed and sub watershed data to create GIS layers that can be used to derive information and/or assist with planning, prioritization, targeting and project implementation.

Plan Content

The WMA Board asked to review the “Goals” they had previously established, before the NDR award. Although not all of those goals are appropriate for the Plan, they can inform the Plan Goals. Goals and ideas for potential revisions are being presented to the WMA Board for review.

Five goals, as presented by NE Iowa RC&D were reviewed by the membership. After discussion a motion was made, seconded and carried to adopt the five goals as presented.

- **Water Monitoring Update – Antonio Arenas**

Water samples have been analyzed for 19 – 23 sites throughout the watershed for 2015, 2016 & 2017. Antonio prepared and presented maps on the water sampling analysis results. It was found that E. coli and nitrate levels are up. Copies of the maps are attached.

- **Homeland Security and Emergency Management Report – Jessica Turba**

Jessica reported that there are hazard mitigation plans available for flood risk reduction on a county scale. They can be tied into the selection of watershed projects. There is also some funding available through the HSEMD. NE Iowa RC&D has her contact information if interested in visiting with her.

- **Committee Updates**

Community Committee – Community meetings have begun. NE Iowa RC&D have met with Tripoli community leaders. A meeting with the cities of Independence, Quasqueton, Winthrop, Aurora and Dunkerton will be August 23rd.

Technical Committee – Angie Auel will be setting up a meeting in the near future.

Communication/PR Committee – Angie Auel will be meeting with member in the near future.

Next Meeting – Tuesday, October 17th at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes
Secretary