

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority  
Buchanan County Public Health Building  
1413 1<sup>st</sup> W, Independence, Iowa  
Thursday, October 19, 2017  
1:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Shonka at 1:35 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 and City of Tripoli; Frank Magsaman, Black Hawk County; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Chris Eiby, Delaware County SWCD; Sylvan Mutschler, City of Frederika; Chuck Unga, Linn County; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton. Tori Hartman, Ross Elsevier, & Paul Berland of NE Iowa RC&D; Angie Auel, Project Coordinator; and representatives of ten additional organizations were present.

The August 22, 2017 minutes were approved as read.

**New Business**

- **Landowner Survey Results – Ross Evelsizer, NE Iowa RC&D**

Out of 1300 surveys sent, 251 were returned at a rate of 19.3%. 1 in 4 owned farmland, 40% live in cities and towns, 21% did not live in the watershed. Purpose was to discover views on water quality, experiences with flooding, current conservation practices used by landowners and interest in participating in future conservation practices. 84% reported flooding was a problem, 60% thought water quality was fair, 39% thought water quality was good. 50% of the farmland owners had already implemented conservation practices and 80% of farmland owners were interested in future conservation practices if cost sharing would be available. A complete report will be available in the future.

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

Watershed Open Houses (public meetings) have been scheduled. They are as follows:

November 16th, 1-2:30pm at the New Hampton Public Library  
November 20th, 1-2:30pm at the ISU Extension Office in Tripoli  
November 30th, 7-8:30pm at the Riceville Public Library  
December 6th, 7-8:30pm at the Independence Public Library

- **Iowa Watershed Approach flood Resilience Update – Craig Just, IIHR-  
Hydroscience & Engineering**

Craig gave a presentation on becoming flood resilient. In the next 3-5 years, the Flood Center plans to have hydrologic assessments and flood resilience action plans for nine

watersheds in the state. They will be concerned with the socially vulnerable populations. The first tier is to be completed in the spring. The Upper Wapsi Watershed is in the second tier to be completed.

The Flood Center will be doing a new case study on flooding in the City of Quasqueton.

- **Iowa Watershed Approach Survey – Valerie Decker**

Julie Kearney (Center for Evaluation and Assessment at the University of Iowa) collected surveys of meeting attendees at the last quarterly meeting (15 people provided back).

Generally, respondents are happy with the information presented at the meetings and they think that the WMA is on track to make progress in flooding and water quality. Respondents identified expectations for the next few months: additional gauges, more monitoring, and more public education and outreach. Respondents identified expectations for the next few years: conservation practices, long-term monitoring and stream gauges, water quality improvement, and collaboration with upstream communities.

Respondents identified people to engage in WMA work: landowners, county supervisors, Buchanan County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Services, engineers, county conservation boards, Pheasants Forever, and Ducks Unlimited.

Respondents identified wanting more information about IWA partner organizations. Breanna Shea is working with Angie to address the gaps and IWA partners will continue to present at WMA Meetings.

Majority of people who took the survey said the WMA progress seems to be “just right”.

- **Tallgrass Prairie Center Update – Maria Urice**

Ashley Kittle and Maria are meeting with the watershed coordinator about the importance of prairie on water quality management in watershed planning. The Tallgrass Prairie Center will provide technical assistance. They are currently working on a 54 acre project in the Upper Wapsi Watershed in Fayette County. The partnership includes the landowner, NRCS, CCC and Tallgrass Prairie Center.

- **Project Coordinator Update – Angie Auel**

Angie reported that a meeting of the Technical Committee is scheduled for October 30<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of the meeting is to establish the application and ranking process for conservation project requests.

- **Water Monitoring Update – Elaine Hughes**

October water sampling was completed on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We will have a final report for the year ready for the next meeting.

- **Committee Updates**

Community Committee reported that NE Iowa RC&D met in August with the cities of Winthrop, Dunkerton, Quasqueton and Independence. Quasqueton discussed wanting to build a lake with a walking trail around it. There will be a walking tour in Winthrop.

- **Other business –**

Kip Ladage reported that the Iowa Soybean Association, through a grant, will be conducting an in-depth study on the Crane Creek Watershed in Bremer County. This watershed contributes to the Upper Wapsipinicon. To date the watershed has been studied for periodic water quality issues, including nitrates. The priority for this study will be to develop a conservation plan for the area that maintains productivity and profitability for producers, while also suggesting possible conservation efforts for the watershed.

**Next Meeting** - A date was not set.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine Hughes  
Secretary