

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room
210 5th Ave. N.E., Independence, Iowa
Tuesday, July 17, 2018
1:30 p.m.**

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gary Gissel at 1:30 p.m.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made. Motion passed.

Members present: Frank Magsaman, Black Hawk County; Gary Gissel, Buchanan County; Julie Althaus, Buchanan SWCD; Steve Geertz, Chickasaw County; Chris Eiby, Delaware SWCD; Sheila Steffen, City of Dunkerton; Duane Meihost, City of Frederika; John Kurtz, City of Independence; Chuck Unga, Linn County; Steven Smolik, Mitchell County; David Pease, City of Sumner; Greg Eschweiler, City of Tripoli, Bremer County, Bremer SWCD; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Lora Friest, Ross Evelsizer & Tori Hartman of NE Iowa RC&D; Angie Auel, Project Coordinator; and representatives of nine additional organizations.

Minutes of the May 8, 2018 meeting were approved as read.

New Business

- **IWA Hydro Update - Antonio Arenas, Iowa Flood Center**

Antonio gave a presentation on the new Hydrology Model he developed for the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed which can be used to predict and measure streamflow. Will be able predict what happens to the rain in the watershed. They have Data for the years 2002-2016.

Weather stations have been installed at Tripoli, Independence and Anamosa.

With this Hydrology Model they will be able to give an analysis of different flood mitigation strategies. Model can be used to answer “what if” questions.

- **Need for Flood Forecasting Tools in the Upper Wapsi – Shirley Johnson, Army Corp of Engineers and Jessica Brook, National Weather Service**

Shirley reported that the Upper Wapsi is the least gaged watershed which makes it harder to predict a high-water flood event. The Jessica reported that the Upper Wapsi is located in a radar vacuum which means it is harder to predict major storms. There is a need for more affordable bridge sensor gage data. The USGS added two gages – one at Tripoli and one at Independence. The Corp has surveyed 3 more sites in need of gages. Each bridge sensor costs \$3,500.00. They are working with partners to obtain more funding for this much needed project. (See attached handout for more details.)

- **University of Iowa CEA Survey results – Valerie Decker**

Valerie reported on the May 8th survey completed by meeting attendees. Thirteen of 21 people who were at the meeting completed the survey – just under 2/3 of the attendees.

- Most people found the resilience presentation useful, naming the discussion of modeling and simulations showing impact of different flood conditions
- Most people agreed the WMA was on track to improve flood mitigation and water quality in the Upper Wapsi but IWA project was moving too slow
- Actions attendees would like to see included: installed practices, practices at top of the watershed, additional public education and involvement
- Barriers to success included landowners having the funds to meet the cost share to do practices, need for money upstream, attitude and motivation on part of landowners
- Areas in which the watershed may need more technical support include: better understanding of watershed hydrology, doing more outreach and seeking additional funding
- A couple positive comments included an appreciation of the guidance of NE Iowa RC&D and the feeling that progress is finally being made

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

Ross reviewed a rough draft of the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Authority Goals, Strategies and Objectives with attendees. There was a discussion of these objectives. The goal of the RC&D was to have the Watershed Plan completed by this year but information for pieces of the plan is not ready at this time. A one-year extension, until August 2019, was granted. A multi-page, detailed action plan was distributed to members of the Education Committee. They will meet to review the plan. Members of the Education Committee include: Gary Gissel, John Kurtz, Don Shonka, Ashley Sherrets, Chuck Ungs, Greg Eschweiler, and Dan Cohen.

- **Project Coordinator Update – Angie Auel**

Angie reported that the contract with the Shive-Hattery engineering firm was signed at the beginning of August. She met with Luke Monat from Shive-Hattery on July 6th to discuss and visit all the projects landowners are interested in pursuing. Luke is working on the feasibility of each project and a simple design to discuss with landowners. She will meet with each landowner to discuss their project design and if it is something they wish to pursue. She will next meet with the Technical Committee to rank the projects and begin the long process of paperwork/construction. Realistically, no construction will occur until Spring 2019 at the earliest.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 16, 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes, Secretary