

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority  
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room  
210 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NE, Independence, Iowa  
Tuesday, February 26, 2019  
1:30 p.m.**

**MINUTES**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Shonka at 1:30 p.m.

Motion to approve the agenda was made and seconded. Motion passed.

**Members present:** David Lehman, Bremer County; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Julie Althaus, Buchanan SWCD; Steve Geertz, Chickasaw County; Ken Leichtman, Chickasaw SWCD; Chris Eiby, Delaware SWCD; Sheila Steffen, City of Dunkerton; John Kurtz, City of Independence; Dennis Goemaat, Linn County; Steven Smolik, Mitchell County; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Curtis Behrens & Stuart Stokey, City of Sumner; Angie Auel, Project Coordinator; Lora Friest, Ross Evelsizer & Tori Nimrod of NE Iowa RC&D; and representatives of five additional organizations.

Minutes of the October 16, 2018 meeting were approved as read.

**New Business**

- **Analysis of 2018 Rainfall Data - Antonio Arenas, Iowa Flood Center**

Antonio gave a presentation on the unusual rainfall data in Iowa for 2018.

- Normal average rainfall based on the years 1981-2010 is 40 to 50 inches annually
- Precipitation for Iowa was 38% above normal
- Precipitation was 58% above normal in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed
- Rainfall in the City of Tripoli was the highest at 71% above normal, receiving the most rainfall ever
- Chickasaw County was 2<sup>nd</sup> with rainfall at 70.69% above normal
- Bremer County was 3<sup>rd</sup> with rainfall at 69% above normal
- There is concern about spring flooding due to high precipitation this winter
- Infrastructure has been designed based on data from the past. Infrastructure needs to be designed based on future projections.

- **NE Iowa RC&D Presentation**

**Upper Wapsi River Watershed Strategy Implementation Survey – Lora Frist**

Lora Friest presented a survey for Upper Wapsipinicon WMA Board members review with their boards, councils or commissioners. RC&D is asking each entity to discuss and fill out the survey and return answers to them for inclusion in the Upper Wapsi River Watershed Resiliency Plan. The goal of the survey is to collect information from each entity about capacity, funding, or personnel they currently have or are willing to provide in respect to the implementation of strategies to be implemented as part of the Upper Wapsi River Resiliency Plan. If board members have any questions about the survey, please contact Lora Friest, Tori Nimrod, or Ross Evelsizer at 563-864-7112.

**Upper Wapsi Watershed Plan Presentation – Ross Evelsizer and Tori Nimrod**

The Northeast Iowa RC&D Upper Wapsipinicon Planning Team is creating an interactive Resiliency Plan that will be housed on the UWRWMA website, upperwapsi.org. The online format will be

available to the public and serve all the residents in the Upper Wapsi Watershed. Some of the interactive components include Story Maps, interactive maps and videos, all of which cannot be included in a traditional printed plan document. Story maps offer an interactive map along with written information. As the viewer scrolls through the explanation, the interactive map moves and changes to reflect the information the viewer is reading. Story maps can also include photos and videos. The online Plan will also include a variety of other interactive maps and data that allow the viewer to understand the characteristics of the Upper Wapsi River Watershed. Videos included in the plan will add another feature not included in paper plans. One example shown by the RC&D Planning Team was a 3D map of well depths in the Watershed that was transformed into a video. The video provides multiple views of the same map allowing information to be fully understood. The online format will also allow for more connection between partner organizations websites and online reports.

- **Project Coordinator Update – Angie Auel**

Angie reported that 15 concepts have been approved by the Technical Committee. (See the document Angie sent to all members Feb 27<sup>th</sup> .) Property owners are required to pay 10% of the costs.

Five projects have been approved for spring bidding once the archeology reviews have been completed after spring thaw.

A project for the City of Quasqueton has been approved. The project will hold back water to reduce flooding in the City of Quasqueton.

All of the grant money must be used by September 2021.

- **Water Monitoring 2019 – Elaine Hughes**

Elaine will contact representatives of the counties who participated in water sampling in the Upper Wapsi Watershed from 2015-17. We will try to begin sampling in May if counties wish to participate.

Coe College has agreed to do the analysis again. The cost for each sample will be \$18.00. This is an increase of \$2.00 per site over 2017. Each county will be responsible for the cost for their sites.

It was suggested we sample the same sites as in previous years.

- **Election of Officers for 7/1/2019-6/30/2021**

Election of officers was tabled until the next meeting at the beginning of June.

### **Next Meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively set for the beginning of June. The exact date to be decided.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Elaine Hughes  
Secretary