

**Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority
Buchanan County Courthouse Assembly Room
210 5th Ave NE, Independence, Iowa
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
1:30 p.m.**

AGENDA

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; Ron Lenth, Bremer SWCD, City of Readlyn; Kip Ladage, Fredricksburg, City of Sumner; Don Shonka, Buchanan County; Julie Althaus, Buchanan SWCD; Steve Geertz, Chickasaw County; Chris Eiby, Delaware SWCD; Duane Meihost, City of Frederika; Jerry Steven, Howard County; John Kurtz, City of Independence; Dennis Goemaat, Linn County; Steven Smolik, Mitchell County; Elaine Hughes, City of Quasqueton; Gregg Eschweiler, City of Tripoli; Angie Auel, Project Coordinator; Ross Evelsizer & Tori Nimrod of NE Iowa RC&D; and representatives of five additional organizations.

Minutes of the February 26, 2019 meeting were approved as read.

New Business

- **Review of By-laws Regarding Officers**

Don Shonka reviewed Article V – Committees and Article VI – Officers in preparation for the election of officers for 7/1/2019-6/30/21.

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

The following slate of officers were nominated:

Chairman – Don Shonka

John Kurtz – Vice President

Gregg Eschweiler – Secretary-Treasurer

Kip Lagade, Chad Staton, Chris Eiby, Duane Meinhost – Directors at Large

A motion was made and seconded to unanimously elect this slate of officers. Motion passed.

- **Update from IIHR/IFC – Antonio Arenas**

Antonio gave a Power Point presentation on the extreme weather conditions in the U.S. and Iowa since June 2018. There has been a 10-20% increase in annual rainfall in Iowa. Bremer received a full year's rainfall in 3 months in 2018.

Very cold temperatures, snow accumulation, accumulation of ice layers in the rivers and highly saturated soils created conditions for flooding.

Here is the link to Antonio's Power Point presentation - <https://we.tl/t-BbcHQpYxme>.

- **Watershed Planning Updates** – Ross Evelsizer, Northeast IA RC&D

Northeast Iowa RC&D lead the discussion on how the Upper Wapsipinicon River WMA would like to develop goals for the Watershed Resiliency Plan. Four options were outlined by the RC&D as a suggestion on how goals could be developed. Option 1) was to set goals based on the entire watershed area. For example, cover crops on 40% of row crop acres in the Upper Wapsipinicon

River Watershed. Option 2) was to choose the same goals for each HUC 12 Subwatershed. For example, cover crops on 40% of row crop acres in each HUC 12 Watershed. Option 3) was to choose specific goals by HUC 12 based on its location, land cover and land use, geology, soils, etc. Lastly option 4) was to develop goals based on each best management practice. After discussion the Board voted on Option 3 as a means to develop watershed Goals for the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed. The Northeast Iowa RC&D Planning Team will be gathering the technical committee to develop the quantitative goals, and will provide materials to inform the goals setting discussion.

Northeast Iowa RC&D reminded WMA board Members to fill out the entity survey discussed at the previous meeting. The survey will help the Planning Team determine who has the resources needed to complete watershed goals and what resources entities need to complete watershed Goals. Northeast Iowa RC&D also asked the Board and meeting attendees for pictures in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed. Pictures of flooding, damage caused by flooding, and pictures of the beautiful watershed in general are needed for the Watershed Plan.

- **Update on IWA Funded Projects – Angie Auel**

A bidding packet with 5 projects has been put together. She is currently working on a list of contractors who will receive the packets. Hope to have packets out for bidding by the end of June. The plan is to begin moving dirt this summer. Grant administrator is working on putting together a bidding packet with 5 projects by fall. There are 405 landowners in HUC 12s.

Angie assisted the Readlyn wetland project with their education package. Teachers received \$5,000.00 to purchase plants for the wetland. Fairbank received \$1,000.00 for a rain garden.

- **Water Monitoring Update 2019 – Angie Auel & Ashley Sherrets**

Angie is coordinating the water sampling program for 2019. Ashley is overseeing 2 volunteers who are obtaining the water samples in Buchanan County. All the counties who have participated in the past are participating again this year.

- **Location of Future Meetings – Discussion**

After discussion, it was agreed that the watershed meetings should continue to be held in Independence.

- **Other**

Iowa Flood Center is celebrating a birthday all day long on Thursday, June 13th. Friends, partners, and the general public are invited to participate in a day-long celebration reflecting on their collective achievements over the past 10 years.

Next Meeting

Next meeting to be announced.

Meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Hughes
Secretary