

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Shonka at 1:36pm.

Motion to approve the agenda was made by Steve Geerts, and seconded by Steve Smolik. Motion Passed.

Members present: Steven Smolik, *Mitchell County Supervisor*, Brian Keierleber, *Buchanan County Engineer*, Colleen Kinney, *Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (IHSEMD)*, Larry Gioffredi, *IHSEMD*, Randy Leach, *City of Fredericksburg*, Ray Armbiechts, *City of Fredericksburg*, Gregg Eschweiler, *City of Tripoli*, Kip Ladage, *Bremer County*, Hilary Pierce, *ISU Extension*, Steve Hopkins, *Iowa DNR*, Jerry Steven, *Howard County*, Reuben Vyn, *Univ. of Iowa Center for Evaluation and Assessment*, Deb Larsen, *City of New Hampton*, Steve Geerts, *Chickasaw County Supervisor*, Ashley Kittle, *UNI Tallgrass Prairie Center*, Rick Wulfekuhle, *Buchanan Emergency Management*, Chris Eiby, *Delaware County NRCS*, Sheila Steffen, *City of Dunkerton*, David Lehman, *Bremer County*, Kate Giannini, *Iowa Flood Center*, Keith Schilling, *Iowa Geologic Survey*, Julie Althaus, *Buchanan County SWCD*, Dan Cohen, *Buchanan County Conservation Board*, Ross Evelsizer, *Northeast Iowa RC&D*, Tori Nimrod, *Northeast Iowa RC&D*, Don Shonka, *Buchanan County Supervisor*.

Minutes of the July 16th, 2019 meeting were approved by Jerry Steven, seconded by Deb Larson.

New Business

- **Iowa Geological Survey-Keith Schilling**

State Geologist, Keith Schilling presented the results of an INRC funded Nutrient Reduction Research Project that focused on roadside ditches in the Lime Creek watershed in Buchanan County. He explained, over 50% of public land in Iowa are roadside ditches and they provide a unique opportunity for water quality management. The Research Project delineated small drainage areas that empty into roadside ditches in the Lime Creek subwatershed and analyzed them for their soil type, water holding and nutrient removal capabilities. Approximately 30% of the Lime Creek watershed drains into a road ditch. Results from the project showed that roadside ditches accumulate a large amount of nitrate and sediment from their drainage areas, but they have the ability to reduce nitrate concentrations in groundwater by up to 60%. Results showed 900lbs of deposited soil sediments per every 5 feet of road ditch ranging from 11 - 37cm in depth. Schilling explained that there is a lot of potential in using roadside ditches as "linear wetlands" to reduce nitrate and sediment loading in Iowa's ground and surface water sources. He also explained the IGS is exploring additional funding sources to expand this research to include more on changes in results with varying vegetation types, ditch structure modifications, different land and soil characteristics, and much more. Lastly, Schilling invited attendees to an Iowa Geological Survey outreach event on November 19th from 2-4pm at the Independence Public Library Community Room, 805 1st St. E. The event is open to the public and there is no cost to attend.

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

Ross Evelsizer presented the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Resiliency Plan to the WMA Board. The Plan includes a variety of detailed interactive elements such as maps and story maps that work to inform the audience about general watershed characteristics, historic flood events, potential locations for best

management practices, and much more. Members of the audience brought up the question of if the Upper Wapsipinicon River Resiliency Plan could be accepted by FEMA in portions of County Hazard Mitigation Plans, and be used to bring in FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant funds to the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed. Ross Eversizer explained that the Northeast Iowa RC&D Planning Team has been working closely with Jessica Turba from Iowa HSEMD to make sure that the Watershed Plan includes all the sections and language required by FEMA, so that sections of the Watershed Plan can be referenced in each County's Hazard Mitigation Plan in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed. Larry Gioffredi, Iowa HSEMD, explained that it is important for each entity in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed to be involved with the planning process so that they can apply for FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant funding in the future, and use the resources in the Watershed Plan. The Upper Wapsipinicon WMA Board suggested waiting to approve the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Resiliency Plan until the next WMA meeting when all the FEMA elements are included.

- **IWA Project Implementation Update: Northeast Iowa RC&D**

Tori Nimrod, Northeast Iowa RC&D explained the RC&D's new role as Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Project Coordinators. Their first action, as project coordinators, was to send out an Upper Wapsipinicon Newsletter that outlined the IWA project, the WMA and the new project coordinators. The Newsletter received great feedback and led to additional interest from landowners in the project area. Currently, there are 25 projects in the process of implementation. The first bid packet, including 4 projects, is expected to go out in a couple weeks, and a second bid packet is expected to go out during the winter.

- **Community Flood Resilience Action Plan for the City of Quasqueton**

Another aspect of the IWA project is to conduct smaller community Flood Resilience Action Plans in a community within each of the nine IWA watersheds in Iowa. The Action Plan is a way to collect information on a variety of small communities in Iowa including how they have been affected by flooding, how the community currently deals with flooding in their city, who is most affected, and what are ways the community can reduce the effects of flooding in their community. The city of Quasqueton was selected as the community to be analyzed in the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed. The Northeast Iowa RC&D project planning team has met with the Quasqueton Mayor and a couple council members to develop their Community Flood Resilience Action Plan. The goal of the Action Plan is to find the population of community members who are most vulnerable to flooding, analyze how they have dealt with flooding in the past, and give them action steps to mitigate flooding in the future.

- **Next Meeting Date**

Next meeting to be announced for February 2020

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm. Motion to adjourn by Steve Geerts, seconded by Sheila Steffen.