

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Shonka at 1:32pm.

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

Board Members present: Steve Smolik, *Mitchell County Supervisor*, Don Shonka, *Buchanan County Supervisor*, John Kurtz, *City of Independence*, Duane Meihost, *City of Frederika*, Kip Ladage, *Bremer County and Bremer County SWCD*, Chris Eibey, *Delaware County SWCD*, Chad Staton, *City of Quasqueton*, Sheila Steffen, *City of Dunkerton*, Gregg Eschweiler, *City of Tripoli*, Sean Dolon, *Buchanan SWCD*, Ray Armbrecht, *City of Fredericksburg*, Randy Leach, *City of Fredericksburg*, Dan Cohen, *Buchanan County CCB*, Denis Goehmat, *Linn CCB*.

Others Present: Kate Giannini, *Iowa Flood Center*, Ross Evelsizer, *Northeast Iowa RC&D*, Tori Nimrod, *Northeast Iowa RC&D*, Dan Jensen, *Shive-Hattery Engineering*, Valerie Decker, *Univ. of Iowa Center for Evaluation and Assessment*.

Motion to approve the Minutes from both the February 11th, 2021 Meeting was made by Chad Staton and seconded by John Kurtz. Motion Passed.

New Business

- **Cedar Rock State Park Introduction-Katie Hund, Iowa DNR**

Katie Hund with the Iowa DNR gave an introduction to Cedar Rock State Park and Lowell and Agnes Walter Estate property. The property includes a famous Frank Lloyd Wright designed home. One of Frank Lloyd Wright's most complete designs, nearly everything at Cedar Rock bears the architect's imprint. Wright designed the furniture, selected the carpets, chose the draperies and even picked out the accessories. Cedar Rock is an important example of the Usonian residential style created by Wright, characterized by its provisions for living simply and in harmony with nature. Everything about the house is compact and efficient. Natural light fills the house. Broad overhangs with upturned edges soften the sunlight and shade the glass walls. There are openings in the overhangs covered with vines for summer shade. Clerestory windows or skylights are incorporated in each room where they have dual duties of brightening interior spaces, and releasing hot air trapped near the ceiling. Katie also explained a little bit of the history of the Walter Family and explained how people from around the world come to visit the Cedar Rock Home and others throughout the county.

- **Cedar Rock State Park Oxbow IWA Project- Daniel Jensen, Shive Hattery Engineering**

Cedar Rock State Park is home to one of 28 flood reduction practices being implemented throughout the Upper Wapsi watershed. The project at Cedar Rock is a large 5-acre oxbow, that will work to store additional flood waters from the Upper Wapsipinicon River during times of high water. Oxbows provide unique fish and other wildlife habitat. These ecosystems are common in the landscape of the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed. Daniel also explained the status of other projects located within the watershed. Projects are making good headway, as conditions have been very favorable towards construction of these practices. Construction of all projects are planned to be completed by December 31st, 2021.

- **Watershed Coordinator Update: Tori Nimrod and Ross Evelsizer, Northeast Iowa RC&D**

Tori Nimrod with Northeast Iowa RC&D explained that all of the implementation dollars are allocated and it is just a matter of completing construction. Northeast Iowa RC&D is still receiving calls from interested landowners who would like to implement flood reduction practices on their properties.

Coordinators also explained a project extension to June of 2022 granted by IDEA. This extension is specifically for coordinator and project partner time to complete construction. If all construction is completed before this date, then the project is complete and coordinators will no longer be paid as a part of the IWA project. Upper Wapsi projects still plan to be implemented during the 2021 construction season. Kate Giannini, Iowa Flood Center also explained plan for hosting a bus tour of projects implemented as a part of the IWA project.

Ross re-iterated the funding request letters sent to WMA member entities in February. At the February WMA meeting the board motioned to send a letter asking for a voluntary contribution to the WMA of \$600 dollars. Again, this donation is voluntary. Members can donate more or less than this amount. Ross explained that we have received a few checks in the mail and multiple verbal allocations. It is difficult to sum up dollars at this time because fiscal years are different between member entities. Total dollars received will be re-evaluated during the next WMA meeting in August.

- **Upper Wapsi WMA Membership – Tori Nimrod and Ross Evelsizer, Northeast Iowa RC&D**

Due to the year 2020 and changes in leadership within County Supervisors, City councils, and SWCD Commissioners, there has been a lack of participation in WMA meetings in the past. Tori and Ross asked for suggestions on how to get more member entities involved in WMA meetings. After discussions it was suggested that a letter be sent to each entity asking them to update their WMA representative and to provide an alternate representative. The letter will also ask for updated contact information for representatives. It was also suggested that a city administrator(s), county or SWCD employee be added to the contact list, so that they could remind the representative of the meetings.

Future grants and the role Northeast Iowa RC&D could play in helping member entities was also discussed. Many Cities and Counties have received funding as a result from COVID-19 and are waiting to receive more guidance on what the funds could be used for. Many members explained it could be a funding source for “Water” projects.

- **Partner Updates**

- **IWA Project Evaluation Survey-Valerie Decker, Univ. of Iowa Center for Evaluations**

Valerie Decker, University of Iowa Center for Evaluations explained the final plans for collecting partner and board experiences with the IWA project. She explained to watch for an email and to please fill out the survey, so they can gather the most information and provide data to legislators about the successes of the IWA project.

- **Next Meeting Date**

August 24th, 2021

Meeting adjourned at 2:35pm. Motion made to adjourn by Chad Staton seconded by Sheila Stephen.