

## Minutes

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

Motion to approve the agenda was made by, Chad Staton and seconded by John Kurtz. 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*, Sean Dolon, *Buchanan SWCD*, Randy Leach, *City of Fredericksburg*, Bobby Schwickerath, *City of New Hampton*, Julie Althaus, *Buchanan County SWCD*, Ron Lenth, *Bremer County SWCD*, Matt Kuhn, *Chickasaw County*, Trevyn Cunningham, *Central City*.

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*. Brian Moore, *Chickasaw CCB*, Bonnie Davis, *City of Independence*, Brian Keierleber, *Buchanan County Engineer*, David Lehman, *Bremer CCB*, Robert Hill, *City of Independence*, Michael Maas, *Buchanan CCB*, Breanna Shea, *Iowa Flood Center*.

Motion to approve the Minutes from May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Meeting was made by John Kurtz and seconded by Steve Smolik. Motion Passed.

## New Business

- **Quasqueton FRAP-Ross Evelsizer, Northeast Iowa RC&D**

The City of Quasqueton was selected by the University of Iowa Flood Resilience Team to develop a Community Flood Resilience Action Plan as part of the Iowa Watershed Approach Project. Northeast Iowa RC&D Planning Team met with Quasqueton Mayor and city councilmen throughout the planning process to determine flood issues within the community. Planners also surveyed a flood prone area of the community to see what some community members have done to make themselves more resilient to flooding. The Quasqueton FRAP includes actions the city and its residents can take to continue to create a more flood resilient community. Chad Staton, Mayor of Quasqueton commented that the community is very excited about the plan, and happy that they have actionable items to follow. They are also excited to have a list of additional funding sources to help fulfill the actions listed in the FRAP.

The Quasqueton FRAP is available on the upper Wapsipinicon River WMA website.

<https://upperwapsi.org/quasqueton-flood-resilience-action-plan/>

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

Tori Nimrod with Northeast Iowa RC&D explained that out of a total of 28 flood reduction projects, 18 of them are complete or are in the process of being seeded, 5 are still under construction, 2 are waiting on construction contract, and three are left to be bid. Project Engineer Dan Jensen, and Northeast Iowa RC&D have been working closely to ensure that the implementation dollars allocated towards the Wapsi watershed are spent. Tori explained it is like trying to hit a moving target, as projects under

construction have change orders that make it hard to predict the actual cost of construction. She is confident that enough funding will remain to complete the last three projects yet to bid.

Dan Jensen, Shive-Hattery Engineering, shared pictures from constructed projects with the group. He mentioned that landowners are very happy with their projects and are working to properly maintain them to get natives established. The first of two on-road detention structures are scheduled to begin construction this week.

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

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. Tori and Ross explained that approximately \$12,000 of the \$18,000-dollar goal amount has been raised to continue funding Northeast Iowa RC&D as Watershed Coordinators. Ross ensured the WMA board that if the goal amount is not reached, Northeast Iowa RC&D will still be able to fulfill duties for the WMA. There is no hard end date to their funding that this time.

The Upper Wapsi WMA board member, Chad Staton made a motion to send an additional letter to WMA member entities who have not contributed, to reminding them about the contribution request in an effort to reach the total goal amount of \$18,000. Motion was seconded by Matthew Kuhn. Motion Passed.

Board member also discussed the possibility of using COVID relief funding to fund watershed, flood reduction, and water quality practices in the Upper Wapsi. Cities, counties, and the RC&D will continue to keep those topics in mind when learning more about the funding coming to cities and counties.

- **Partner Updates**

- **Iowa Flood Center**

- IFC is starting to run models to determine the flood reduction benefits the implemented projects have at the HUC 12 watershed scale. They will also be measuring the nitrogen and phosphorus reductions in the watershed as well.
- Antonio has changed jobs and will be working at Iowa State University. He will continue to finish out tasks for the IWA project and will continue to work in the state on flood reduction efforts and modeling.
- Iowa Finance Authority has a low-interest loan/ forgivable grant available for water quality improvement practices for cities and counties.
- IFC will be at a variety of events and conferences in the next few months sharing information on the IFIS and other IWA topics.

- **Next Meeting Date**

TBD at a later date.

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