



Upper Wapsi River WMA Meeting
Twin Ponds Nature Center
July 11th, 2024
1:30 pm

Minutes

The meeting was called to order by WMA Chairman, John Kurtz at 1:31 pm.

Motion to approve the agenda. Motion was made by Sherman Lundy and seconded by Michael O'Loughlin. Motion Passed.

Attendees: John Kurtz, *Buchanan County Supervisor*, Tori Nimrod, *Northeast Iowa RC&D*, Orlan Love, *City of Quasqueton*, Randy Leach, *City of Fredericksburg*, Kip Ladage, *Bremer County SWCD*, Dennis Goemaat, *Linn County Conservation*, David Lehman, *Bremer County*, Steve Breitbach, *Chickasaw County*, Mike O'Loughlin, *City of Independence*; Ron Lenth, *Bremer SWCD*, Sherman Lundy, *Black Hawk County SWCD*, Matt Crayne, *Chickasaw CCB*, Sean Dolan, *Buchanan SWCD*, Chad Humpal, *Chickasaw CCB*, Trevyn Cunningham, *Central City*, Rick Wulfkuhle, *Buchanan Co. EM*, Jeanette Shoop, *Linn County*, Sydney Hartogh, *Mitchell County*, Duane Meihost, *City of Frederika*.

Motion to approve the Minutes from March. 12th, 2024. Motion was made by Sherman Lundy and seconded by Sean Dolan. Motion Passed.

Annual Meeting: Elections

The Board was one short of a quorum, therefore no formal motions were made. Although Chairman, Kurtz brought to attention whether any board member currently serving on the executive board if they wanted to step down. No one indicated that they were interested in stepping down, therefore, the topic will be pushed back another year. Next annual meeting with elections will be in July 2025.

Watershed Coordinator Update:

FY26 Proposed Funding Mechanism Discussion

Coordinators and members of the Executive Committee were interested in exploring another method for requesting donations from member entities. Historically the Upper Wapsi WMA has requested a flat donation request of \$600 from each entity. The method for discussion would be to request a donation amount based on the entities population located in the Upper Wapsi Watershed. Many other WMAs use this more quantile approach. Board Chair explained that donations that are currently coming in do not satisfy what they WMA needs to support a part-time Coordinator. He explained without a Coordinator the WMA cannot function and there is no one to work on bringing additional funds to the Watershed. The donation request for each entity is equal to \$0.65 per person living in the watershed within their entity. SWCD's contribution is based on the number of Sampling sites within that county with a minimum set at \$150.

Coordinator, Tori Nimrod explained that in order to incorporate this funding formula in the Fiscal Year 2026 request, the board needs to approve it this month. Since the board was short one person during this meeting to fulfill a quorum it was determined that a motion would be sent out and voted on via email.

Nimrod also explained that during the transition period to the new formula coordinators would work to explain clearly in the letter the benefits of the WMA to each entity and would include each entity's previous donation amount. Although the letter will include the new funding formula request, entities are free to contribute however much they want. **This is still a voluntary donation and member entities are not required to donate.** This request is for FY26, for many entities that starts on July 1st, 2025.

For those who have not donated for FY2025 (which started July 1st, 2024) and need an invoice please contact Tori or Ross at the RC&D and we will send you an invoice.

Water Sampling Results 2023

Watershed coordinators continue to work with Dr. Martin St. Claire to conduct water sampling efforts in the watershed. Dr. St. Claire is now working at the University of Iowa and continues to partner from his new position. In addition to normal sampling parameters, we have also added testing for PFAS, Pesticide, and Heavy Metals at 3 sites in the watershed. The WMA does not pay for the additional testing. It is a way for Dr. St. Claire to advance his research with the Univ. of Iowa and continue to analyses our usual samples. Water Sampling results for 2024 will conclude in October. Results should be compiles in the spring of 2025.

Partner Updates:

Ron Lenth: Board member Lenth mentioned two upcoming events in Bremer county that board members may be interested in attending. First is a field day outlining the nutrient reductions of a bio-reactor that is now 10 years old. The second event is a Master Conservation Program course that begins in August. The course includes topics on history and current opportunities for conservation in Iowa, Iowa's landform regions, and how to communicate conservation. See additional event information attached with these minutes

Sherman Lundy brought up the Gathering of Iowa WMAs. This event will be held on August 28th in Ames Iowa. It is intended for WMA coordinators, board members and active community members. It is an opportunity to connect and learn from other WMAs throughout the State and hear about the legislative movement for WMAs. Pre-registration required. Register at the link below prior to August 12th. <https://forms.gle/ueQN8StqWdVjertU7>

- **Next Meeting Date:** Tori, will send out potential meeting dates for October,

Meeting Adjourned at 1:57 Motion made by Sean Dolan, Second by Orlan Love. Motion Passed.