



**MUD, CAMP, & SPRING CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING**

**CITY OF ALTOONA, IOWA
CITY HALL
407 EIGHTH STREET SE, ALTOONA, IOWA**

**July 12th, 2017
1:30 PM**

Attendees:

WMA Members:

*Madeline Sturms – City of Pleasant Hill
Kyle Riley – Polk SWCD
Karen Oppelt – City of Altoona
Vern Willey – City of Altoona
Robert Rice – Polk County
Wayne Patterson – City of Mitchellville*

Others:

*Amanda Brown
John Swanson
Mark Land
Jennifer Welch
Clifford Leonard
Doug Sheeley
Melissa Miller
Jim Utter
Ann Wolf
Teva Dawson*

1. Welcome/Introductions – *Madeline Sturms, Chair 1:32pm*
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. *Wayne Patterson 1st, Vern Willey 2nd*
 - b. *Agenda approved*
3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
 - a. *April 12th, 2017 meeting minutes up for approval. Changes will be made to correct the spelling of Vern Willey's last name.*
 - b. *Vern Willey 1st, Wayne Patterson 2nd*
 - c. *Minutes approved*
4. Implementation Update
 - a. Grant Opportunities
John Swanson gave an overview of some upcoming grant opportunities (see attached). He stated that if the cities have any projects or ideas for the grants to let him know. Swanson also said that if he thinks of any ideas for projects he will reach out to the cities the projects would fall within.

Amanda Brown spoke about a cover crop initiative that will be happening in the watersheds as well as the county as a whole. There will be a relatively new method of seeding cover crops available in the area; a Hagie highboy interseeder. This interseeder will be available to all landowners throughout Polk County. Brown said she will be promoting this method along with trying to recruit new cover crop users.

5. Council of the WMAs Update –MPO

Teva Dawson stated that the group had decided on updating the stormwater policies as the first policy issue to tackle. MPO held a meeting on June 1st discussing the policies and how to move forward with over 40 people in attendance. Since this meeting MPO and Polk SWCD has met with Capital Crossroads and the Local Government Collaborative Group about moving forward. Dawson said that MPO will lead the campaign in promoting/educating the policy changes while the Collaborative will work on developing the policy with various stakeholders. Developers and other important groups will be involved throughout this process as well. Dawson stated that as part of the outreach effort with the policies MPO will work on creating tours and having speakers to educate individuals. She asked the cities to let her know of elected officials and other people who should be invited to these events.

Madeline Sturms asked if there was any support needed from the WMAs. Dawson asked the cities to continue to speak to their elected officials about these policies and the importance of them.

6. Army Corps Hydrologic Study

Mark Land stated that the county has executed the agreement with the Army Corps and now the Corps has to run it through their process. The tentative timeline has the project potentially starting in August. The cities/Polk SWCD staff would begin counting their in kind projects/hours then. If any cities have projects or things they think may count to the in kind contribution needed they should let John know.

7. Statewide WMA Formation – Iowa Water Center

Melissa Miller from the Iowa Water Center gave a brief background of what she does and what the goals of the Iowa Water Center are in WMA work. She stated that the need for a statewide WMA formation arose out of a legislative event held at the MPO in January. Many people at the event stated that there currently was not an avenue for WMAs across Iowa to work together towards legislative outreach and utilize each other to reach common goals. Miller said that the group will be called WMAs of Iowa and they are looking to have participation from each WMA throughout Iowa. They are also looking for nominations from each WMA to serve on the executive board. This will include staggered 2-3 year terms and will require quarterly meeting attendance. Individuals will have the option to call in if they cannot make it to the meeting in person and or send an alternate that the MCS WMA will select. Once formed, this board will come up with bi-laws for the WMAs of Iowa and decide how the group plans on moving forward. The Iowa Water Center will be in charge of the administration duties at the beginning.

Madeline Sturms asked the group if they would like to support this group. She stated that this is a great opportunity to move the WMAs forward. Bob Rice also reiterated this, saying that it is essential for the state to work together moving forward on topics like funds, lobbying...etc. Rice stated he would be willing to go and represent the group. John Swanson said he would be there too.

8. Coordinator Contract Discussion

Bob Rice gave an overview on how the contract hiring Polk SWCD to lead implementation in the watershed came about a year ago. He stated that usually the chair does most of the work to keep the WMA running and that instead Polk SWCD has been contracted to do the administration, coordination...etc. Polk SWCD was chosen because they are not a political entity and already do this work in other watersheds. Polk SWCD has also decided to contract with MPO separately to carry out the policy work. Rice said that the current agreement is up in September and we would like to extend to a three year contract. The new agreement would work the same way as the current one with a few minor changes. John Swanson stated that these changes include administrative work for the Beaver Creek WMA and contracting out for website design and maintenance. Because of this added work, the monetary ask has increased a little. He also stated that even with the added work load, help to each jurisdiction would not be negatively affected. Even though a three year period is proposed, the agreement would be evaluated each year in case needs/concerns arise. The proposal with the dollar amounts for each jurisdiction will be sent out following this meeting. Swanson wanted to remind the group that Polk SWCD is available to give presentations to councils if needed.

The board decided they would need to hold a special meeting to discuss this topic before the contract is up. This special meeting was decided to be held on August 23rd at 1:30 at Altoona City Hall.

9. Other Comments/Discussion

There were no other comments or discussion

10. Next Quarterly Meeting; October 11th, 2017

Altoona city hall at 1:30pm. There will also be a special meeting on August 23rd at 1:30 at the same location.

11. Adjourn

Wayne Patterson 1st, Robert Rice 2nd, 2:34pm