



**MUD, CAMP, & SPRING CREEK WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN
STAKEHOLDER GROUP MEETING #2 MINUTES**

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

**SEPTEMBER 29, 2015
1:30 PM**

Attendees: Loren Lown, Richard Leopold, Sue Ugulini, Mike Ugulini, Karen Oppelt, James Martin, Bob Rice, Kyle Ament, Teva Dawson, Amanda Corrigan, Wayne Patterson, Kyle Riley, Mark Land, Pat Boddy, and Jennifer Welch

1. Welcome – *Mark Land*
2. Planning Process Update – *Mark Land*

Mark gave a planning process update based on the schedule and agendas of the WMA meeting and WMA Executive Committee meeting. He then expanded on the update on the stream assessment, which is discussed later. He discussed what the group would be doing at this meeting and that the WMA will look at this information at the next WMA meeting on October 14th. The WMA will take this information and look for action items to discuss in the implementation planning process at the December stakeholder meeting.

3. Stream Assessment Data Collection – *Jennifer Welch/Mark Land*
 - a. Priority Map Discussion
The group discussed the maps and pictures provided by Polk SWCD and Snyder & Associates. The maps show the top five risk/priority areas in each watershed. There is some concern about the number two site for Mud Creek, since it is owned by the US Army Corps of Engineers, but if the group desired, priority could be moved to the next highest risk site on Mud Creek. Amanda Corrigan, with PSWCD, discussed the pictures that were taken of priority areas on Camp and Spring Creeks.
 - b. Quadcopter Flight Discussion
The group discussed the quadcopter flights that would be conducted based on these risk/priority sites. It was proposed that instead of doing the top three risk sites, the quadcopter flight could also focus on areas that are the least risk and show the good work that has been done so far.
4. Goal Updating/Setting Small Group Discussion – *Pat Boddy/Mark Land*

The group reviewed the existing goals and objectives for any changes. The overall consensus of the group was to change objective 4.4 to something easier to understand about not building in the floodplain. It was also suggested that objective 4.5 be changed to clean up the language and reference using data to make informed decisions.

5. Task/Action Item Small Group Discussion – *Pat Boddy/Mark Land*

The group broke up into smaller groups and discussed the action items and responsible parties for each of the goals.

Goal 1: Develop consistent policies for storm water and flood management, water quality improvement, and a well balanced mix of land uses.

The group discussed the need for a review of each jurisdiction's land use plans. No particular party was nominated for this task. The group also discussed having an annual review of the agricultural land use/cover/management by the Polk SWCD, as well as additional RASCAL assessments in the future. The group also identified the need to obtain/access Comprehensive Plans to help create development standards. The group expressed a need to assign a Policy Coordinator, which could also serve as a Watershed Coordinator. This person would be responsible for education (Field Days), incentives, and model ordinances, among other things. A checklist idea was also proposed by the group to be able to measure the success of these action items and the overall goal on an annual basis. This progress could also be tracked and evaluated through available data (GIS) to make future decisions and reserve property rights for citizens.

Goal 2: Increase community awareness, support, and involvement in the Watershed Plan and its implementation.

The group discussed implementing a website for community awareness and support, as well as incorporate SE Polk School District and Bondurant-Farrar School District into the success and longevity of the website. Students could be utilized to develop the website and keep it updated with new information and ideas. Polk SWCD and the MWA could also help with the support and implementation of the website.

The group proposed implementing a speaker series to address and engage a wide variety of groups in the watershed. This includes elementary school students, to address the local community, garden clubs, to engage the residential property owners, the Chamber of Commerce, to address the retail and industry audience, and cooperatives, to engage the agriculture property owners. Field Days/Bus Tours were also proposed as a form of educational activity.

The group also discussed having a hands-on education component. One of the proposed activities includes the Adopt-A-Stream program, eventually covering every mile of stream in the watershed. Another idea was to continue to engage the schools by having them conduct water monitoring near the school. One participant discussed including visual/real life facts on the website, in a mailer, or any other kind of outreach program, that people can relate to and understand. Water quality education is also an important part of education and the residents in the watershed should understand the importance and meaning of it.

The group discussed having a "Best of Practice Program", which is an award/recognition program coordinated by the WMA for both urban and rural practices. Polk SWCD could also help with the agricultural aspect of the program. The panel of judges would be landowners within the watersheds and they would peer review the finalists to eliminate any source of bias.

Another idea the group discussed was holding a State Fair WMA Day. The WMA could partner with the DNR and have representatives and displays for each WMA at the DNR building. Another crucial part of increasing community support and awareness is publicity through the print media. Some ideas for publicity include the Altoona Herald, the Des Moines Register Eastside Insert, the Living Magazines for each community, and handing out fliers at the libraries of each community.

Goal 3: Maintain, preserve, and enhance natural resources character and function for habitat, recreation, and quality of life.

The group went through each objective to determine the action items necessary for the goals' success. For objective 3.1, the group identified the need to convening with agricultural partners to assess current incentives and determine future enhancements. Polk SWCD was proposed as the convener. The partners proposed were Polk County, the communities in the watersheds, and the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, among others. Polk County Conservation Board could also help from the desk by conducting assessments and gaining support from the communities and Audubon. There could also be an integration part within the Water Trail Plan (MPO).

For objective 3.2, the group discussed the need to identify the most likely areas and potential for easement/buy-out. Flood-prone lands could be referenced from the watershed assessment completed in this study. Also, the State Historic Preservation Office could possibly conduct a review with outreach from the WMA.

For objective 3.3, the group determined the importance of convening city and county planning staff for land use policy review, which the MPO could lead. It is crucial to determine policy guidelines for potential broad-based adoption.

For objective 3.4, the group identified this as possibly moving it to a sub-bullet to 3.1 or 3.5. The discussion was around the need to address developer ownership along Highway 163 and the impact on future runoff. Also, unified sizing criteria should be developed.

For objective 3.5, the group identified the need for expanding on the specifics of "recreational opportunities." What exactly does this entail? Trails, parks, etc? The group needs to consider other recreational aspects. One example is natural wildlife areas/birding. For this goal, the group needs to improve the understanding of current and potential recreation opportunities.

Goal 4: Identify and address soil and water issues to improve flood management and water quality.

The group discussed the importance of water monitoring and partnering with Polk County Conservation, DNR, and Polk SWCD. The sites will need to be identified, as well as the responsible parties. Polk County Conservation is developing a program to start monitoring in the entire Polk County, which could be added upon. It was also identified that past information from Camp Creek projects, Metro Waste Authority, and monitoring data could be beneficial.

Another task that was identified by the group was to look for additional funding to do more than ambient monitoring. As for water quantity projects, important groups to involve include Cities/Counties, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Iowa Flood Center, among others. The

group also discussed what is/has been done in the Fourmile Creek Watershed that has been successful. The group also discussed soil health and soil quality items that go along with it.

The group went through each of the objectives for goal 4 and proposed changes for each. The changes are as follows:

- 1. Establish water quality monitoring data and protocols to identify water quality issues.*
 - 2. Develop strategies to improve water quality.*
 - 3. No changes.*
 - 4. Identify high priority areas for flood management and future flood loss mitigation.*
 - 5. This objective needs something changed. They discussed a smart growth checklist and/or moving the ideas into other goals that deal with showing people the differences that can occur if they develop differently, the outreach that can be done to teach about the changes that need to happen, and policies that can be used to achieve it. What is written is hard to understand and too heavily focused on technology.*
6. Adjourn