



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

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

**October 11th, 2017
1:30 PM**

Attendees:

WMA Members:

*Madeline Sturms – City of Pleasant Hill
Jennifer Welch – Polk SWCD
Karen Oppelt – City of Altoona
Vern Willey – City of Altoona
Robert Rice – Polk County
Skip Dunbar – City of Runnells*

Others:

*Amanda Brown
John Swanson
Mark Land
Tyler Stubbs
Dylan Mullenix
Doug Sheeley
Allison Riley
Jim Utter*

1. Welcome/Introductions – *Madeline Sturms, Chair 1:31pm*
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. *Vern Willey 1st, Bob Rice 2nd*
 - b. *Agenda approved*
3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
 - a. *July 12, 2017 and August 23rd, 2017 meeting minutes up for approval.*
 - b. *Bob Rice 1st, Vern Willey 2nd*
 - c. *Minutes approved*

4. Implementation Update

John Swanson handed out a year one overview sheet to the group (see attached). This sheet goes over what has been accomplished throughout the first year of implementation and goes over some ideas moving into year two. He said that moving into year two he would like to try and engage the cities more and let them decide what they would like Polk SWCD to focus on. He will still be working on an opportunity basis with project implementation along with this.

Swanson also handed out a one page sheet highlighting the goals outlined in the watershed management plan (see attached). What we accomplished towards the goal is listed as well as a question Swanson posed to each city.

Goal 1: Develop Consistent Policies. Swanson asked how we could utilize comprehensive plans as a tool for the watershed. The group was in consensus that it would be beneficial to utilize these plans and incorporate watershed goals into them. Swanson will be reaching out to cities to schedule a meeting with all jurisdictions to go over their comprehensive plans.

Goal 2: Community Support and Awareness. Swanson asked the group what community outreach actions they would like to focus on, if any. Madeline Sturms stated that Pleasant Hill has a cost share program for their residents, but it is underutilized. She stated that there is a need for public awareness to optimize the program. Swanson said that Polk SWCD could write articles for jurisdictions to add to their newsletters and social media outlets promoting these programs as well as other conservation issues/solutions. He stated that he would like to develop a strategic plan throughout this year in order to address urban public outreach. Doug Sheeley mentioned promoting the adopt a stream program through Metro Waste Authority. The group was in agreeance that this was a beneficial idea.

Goal 3: Enhance Natural Resources. The group was asked what they would like to prioritize in relation to protecting natural resources in the watersheds. Vern Willey stated that work to preserve the greenway corridor is pretty important. Sturms echoed this statement by saying that any education we can do to showcase the importance of preserving the 500 year floodplain would be beneficial.

Goal 4: Identify and Address Soil and Water Issues. Swanson asked the group what they would like to prioritize in relation to protecting/improving water and soil quality. Jim Utter said there is a lot of advantages to putting together a wetland mitigation bank. Doug Sheeley also mentioned that stream mitigation may be in the horizon. Swanson said that the Fourmile Creek WMA is also interested in wetland mitigation banks and that it could be a possibility to partner with them and create a regional bank. Willey stated that streambank stabilization is also important.

Dylan Mullenix said that the MPO is still working on developing policy standards for the metro. They are working with DMACC and Capitol Crossroads to have stormwater policy become the next topic through the Local Government Collaboration. All three metro WMAs are in support of this. DMACC is currently going to each city to make sure they would like this to be the topic moving forward into the next year. Even if this is not the next topic, Mullenix stated that MPO will work with Polk SWCD to move forward on creating metro wide policy change recommendations. Sturms said that it would be a good idea to put these policies into the comprehensive plans to give them more “weight”.

5. WMA Work Session Discussion – Polk SWCD

Swanson said that the plan is to have “mini work session” discussions at each WMA meetings to try and work towards meeting the watershed management goals. The next

meeting will have the topic of comprehensive plans and how they can be utilized to implement the management plan.

6. Spring Creek Hydrologic Study Update – Polk SWCD

Swanson said that the Army Corps will be doing on the ground assessments of Spring Creek in late October. Polk SWCD will be sending out a letter to residents along the creek making them aware. The next conference call for project updates will be January 24th, 2018 at 2pm.

7. Other Comments/Discussion

Mullenix introduced Allison Riley as a new full time employee of the MPO. Riley will be taking the vacant position left by Teva Dawson. He also said that next week there will be informational meetings updating the public on the water trails efforts. Polk SWCD will send out the times and dates of these to the group.

Bob Rice stated that he would like to utilize the piece of land Polk County owns along Mud Creek. Amanda Brown said Polk SWCD will go out and investigate the piece this fall to determine what types of conservation practices may be possible.

Jennifer Welch made the group aware that the Urban Water Quality Initiative Grant is now accepting applications. Applications are due December 8th, 2017. Brown will be sending out more information to the group following the meeting. Swanson encourages all cities to apply.

Brown updated the group on how the Hagie cover crop project went this fall. She stated that around 3,000 acres of cover crops got seeded using the machine throughout central Iowa. They will be using this program next fall as well.

Tyler Stubbs said that he has been working the Jennifer Welch and various cities to installed deeper retention basins that can support fish populations. He recently stocked a basin in the city of Altoona.

8. Next Meeting; January 10th, 2018

Altoona city hall at 1:30pm

9. Adjourn

Vern Willey 1st, Robert Rice 2nd, 2:35pm

Year One WMA Highlights

Fourmile Creek Watershed

- Lower Fourmile Greenway Master Plan completed and practice implementation has begun including stream stabilization and a stormwater wetland
- Working on upstream regional detention and practice funding by jurisdictions collaborating to fund upstream practices for mutual benefit
- City of Slater installing practices at headwaters of watershed with SRF and WQI financial assistance
- Active participation from rural landowners, increased adoption of new conservation practices

Walnut Creek Watershed

- The Nature Conservancy has prioritized to restore wetlands and oxbows
- Windsor Heights developing water quality demonstration park for residents
- Clive was first community to adopt stormwater ordinance recommendations
- Of all watersheds, Walnut agricultural producers have been least receptive to conservation practices

Mud Camp Spring Creek Watershed

- Army Corps of Engineers has begun additional study on Spring Creek watershed
- Active community foundation in Bondurant has spurred the implementation of conservation practices including a drainage channel restoration
- Altoona planning large detention area at headwaters of Spring Creek
- Most active agricultural producers installing numerous conservation practices, several without financial assistance

Moving into year two

Polk SWCD recommends that each WMA consider ways to increase communication and input from members

- Help prioritizing the Polk SWCD team efforts
- Maximize opportunities available in the watershed

WMA Work Session Groups

- Small groups to focus on plan goals and collaborate on solutions
- Add work sessions to WMA meeting **or** hold individual work sessions separately
- Review of watershed management plan progress and priorities

How to better communicate and implement topics such as:

- Regional Detention
- Education/Outreach to engage residents
- Streambank restoration
- Retrofitting existing stormwater infrastructure
- Greenways

Practice Implementation Table

Mud, Camp, Spring Creek Watersheds

Practice	Amount	Cost
Grassed Waterway	11,400 ft.	\$51,697
Grade Stabilization	1 (no.)	\$45,000
Terraces	3,603 ft.	\$22,355
Stream Stabilization	300 ft.	\$28,000
Farm Pond	1 (no.)	\$30,000
Bondurant Prairie Swale	3,100 ft.	\$75,000
Constructed Wetland	1 (no.)	\$220,000

Fourmile Creek Watershed

Practice	Amount	Cost
Grassed Waterway	6,600 ft.	\$39,921
Saturated Buffer	3 (no.)	\$13,340
Prairie STRIPS	2,000 ft.	\$1,000
Bioreactor	1 (no.)	\$16,000
Pollinator Planting	3.9 acres	\$3,000
Wetland Restoration	3.7 acres	\$5,800
Stormwater Wetland	2 (no.)	\$255,000
Stream Stabilization	4,000 ft.	\$2,810,000
Permeable Pavers	10,000 sq. ft.	\$210,000
State Fair Permeable Trail	5,000 sq. ft.	\$69,412

Walnut Creek Watershed

Practice	Amount	Cost
Grassed Waterway	1,550 ft.	\$13,000
Saturated Buffer	2 (no.)	\$6,200
Bioreactor	1 (no.)	\$21,500
Oxbow Restorations	6 (no.)	\$115,000
Colby Park Demo	1 (no.)	\$17,000
WH IEDA Green Project	1 (no.)	\$1,400,000

Funding Sources – Total

Source	Amount
EQIP/RCPP	\$80,435
IFIP	\$24,980
REAP	\$9,000
ISU	\$2,000
CRP	\$32,220
WQI (Ag)	\$9,220
Private Landowner	\$169,129
WQI (Urban)	\$316,000
Metro Waste Authority	\$230,000
Local Jurisdictions	\$227,500
The Nature Conservancy	\$70,000
SRF Sponsored Project	\$2,810,000
IEDA	\$1,400,000
Total	\$5,380,484

Mud Camp Spring Creek Watershed Management Plan

Goal 1- Develop Consistent Policies

- **How could we utilize comprehensive plans as a tool for the watershed?**
- Regional Detention- Altoona Spring Creek Project
 - o Further opportunities in Bondurant
- Regional Stormwater Ordinances- MPO

Goal 2- Community Support and Awareness

- Website created, new in the works
- Future field days planned for 2018
- Mailings/site visits/outdoor learning area
- Bondurant community foundation
- Ag Cost Share programs developed, promoted, and implemented
- **Would you like to prioritize any of the below actions?**
 - o Urban resident education/outreach
 - o Development of urban cost share programs
 - o Yearly stream cleanup
 - o Additional urban educational events

Goal 3- Enhance Natural Resources

- **Would you like to prioritize any of the below actions?**
 - o Identify priority buyout areas
 - o Create natural resources overlay district
 - o Prairie pothole preservation (ACPF and/or agsolver)
 - o Greenway network (500 year)

Goal 4- Identify and Address Soil and Water Issues

- **Would you like to prioritize any of the below actions?**
 - o Wetland mitigation bank
 - o Streambank restoration
 - o Reduce bacteria inputs
 - o Native prairie plantings (100 ac.)
 - o Water monitoring
- ACE water quantity model being created
 - o Analyze model for future development