



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

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

**October 12th, 2016
1:30 PM**

Attendees: Madeline Sturms, Jane Clark, Mark Arentsen, Kyle Ament, Karen Oppelt, John Swanson, Amanda Brown, Kyle Riley, Rich Leopold, Vern Willey, Sheila Navis, Mark Ackelson, Zach Young

1. Welcome/Introductions – *Vern Willey, Chair*

2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- a. *January 13, 2016 meeting minutes up for approval*
- b. *Madeline Sturms 1st, Shelia Navis 2nd*
- c. *Minutes approved*

3. WMA Coordinator Introduction – *John Swanson*

John introduced himself as the new WMA Coordinator for the Mud/Camp/Spring Watersheds. He will also be working in the Walnut and Fourmile Watersheds. He discussed how he is planning on meeting with all the jurisdictions within each watershed to determine which conservation projects they may have and determine how he can best assist their city. He will be making a list of projects so when grant funding becomes available he will be ready to help cities acquire potential funding to complete the projects.

4. Adoption of Completed Watershed Management Plans by each Jurisdiction - *Polk SWCD*

John Swanson and Amanda Brown stated they thought it would be a good idea for each jurisdiction's council to officially adopt the Mud/Camp/Spring Watershed Management Plans moving forward. The present attendees thought this would be a good idea and agreed to try and have the plans officially adopted by next WMA meeting in January. John was asked if he could come to one city council meeting before the January WMA meeting in order to speak with the council about adopting the plan and how he plans on moving forward with implementation. Amanda Brown said the full plan is available online at www.fourmilecreekwatershed.org for review. Attendees thought it would be good to have a hard copy of the plan. Polk SWCD staff said they would look into getting each jurisdiction hard copies.

5. Upcoming Urban Water Quality Initiative Grant Opportunity – *Polk SWCD*

John Swanson gave a brief overview of the Urban Water Quality Initiative Grant that will be available by the end of the month. He stated that this grant is something the cities and other entities would be eligible to apply for in order to do water quality projects. It will provide 50% cost share up to \$100,000 and is due early December. Amanda Brown stated that she will send information out to the WMA once the grant is released.

6. Council of the WMA Update – MPO/Polk SWCD

- a. *Regional Policies Recommendations - Zach Young (sitting in for Teva Dawson-MPO) referred to the policy handout and asked the group which listed policy they would like to work to get passed first. It was discussed that the best route may be to work on the “low hanging fruit” or the least political policy. Vern stated that the city of Altoona would like the WMA to focus on a buffer initiative since the city of Altoona is currently focusing on developing one already. The group was in agreeance that this policy makes sense to start with and get in place before the agriculture ground is developed. Rich mentioned tackling the floodplain and stream buffer protection together, since they go hand in hand. He said we could utilize the floodplain maps that are already in place as a starting point. The construction site pollution prevention was also brought up as a potential focus point along with the other two. Since there are already regulations in place, we can focus on supporting the enforcement of these regulations by city staff. Madeline and Karen stated that this may be a difficult policy to focus on due to the politics, but it may be a little easier if regulations were enforced metro wide. The group decided that flood plan and buffer polices were the two they would want the MPO to focus on moving forward. It was brought up by the group to look into the City of Coralville’s policy for guidance.*
- b. *Regional Legislative Needs – Amanda Brown asked the group what topics they would like to see brought up to legislators about issues facing the WMA/watersheds. Rich stated that it would be beneficial for WMAs to be eligible as grant applicants. He also thought it would be good to look at what legislation has tried to pass in the past along the lines of flood protection. These topics will be discussed at the Council of the WMA meeting in November.*

7. Implementation Update – John Swanson

John gave a brief overview on which cities he has met with and a few projects they have prioritized. He met with the city of Bondurant and their Arts and Recreation Committee about a potential bio-swale replacing the concrete flume that runs through town. There is also potential to do a two stage ditch on city property behind the school. John also said he met with Pleasant Hill and will be working towards helping them with a pond mitigation/park project at the bottom of the watershed. He stated the importance of getting these project lists before grants become available so when funding comes around we have projects ready to go. John will also be focusing on getting projects on the ground prior to future development.

John asked the group what they would like him to focus on as far as education and outreach. Rich brought up doing some type of “job fair” like they will possibly be doing in Fourmile WMA. This would consist of bringing potential funders in and seeing if they

would be interested in funding projects. Mark Ackelson thought John should promote SRF funding and utilizing the matching dollars. John brought up how him and Amanda are working with Metro Waste Authority to create an ag demonstration farm and will be investigating their property once the crops are harvested. Amanda passed around a sign that Darren Fife from Windsor Heights installed along Walnut Creek. The sign shows results from real time monitoring in the creek and serves as an education/outreach piece. She said that a similar sign could be utilized in the Mud/Camp/Spring watersheds. The attendees would like to move forward with this idea. The group thought it would be beneficial to wait and have a public outreach event until we had a project installed to showcase.

8. WQI Project Update – Amanda Brown

Amanda gave an update on what areas she plans on focusing on moving forward in the agricultural areas. She plans on focusing on implementing prairie STRIPS throughout the watershed. This practice works similarly to contour buffer strips and is well suited to the hilly terrain of Mud/Camp/Spring watersheds. She will be locating priority sites and reaching out to the landowners in these areas. Amanda will be driving around the watersheds once crops are out to document acres of cover crops and other conservation practices that were installed this year. She will have an overall update on these amounts at the January meeting. She also spoke about how she has been working with DNR to install creek signs where Mud, Camp, and Spring creeks cross under the major roadways.

9. Future Meeting Times/Location – Amanda Brown

Amanda asked the group if they liked the current meeting times/dates or if they would like to change them for future meetings. The group reached an agreement that they liked the current times and dates and would like to continue this schedule for next year's meetings.

10. Adjourn at 2:40 pm

- Madeline Sturms 1st, Shelia Navis 2nd