



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

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

**April 11th, 2018
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
Chris Widmer – City of Pleasant Hill
John Horton – City of Bondurant*

Others:

*Amanda Brown – Polk SWCD
John Swanson – Polk SWCD
Mark Land – Snyder & Associates
Russell Wilkins - Landowner
Kyle Ament – Iowa DNR
Charles Ikenberry - FYRA
Allison Riley - MPO*

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. *January 10th meeting minutes up for approval.*
 - b. *Bob Rice 1st, Vern Willey 2nd*
 - c. *Minutes approved*
4. Implementation Update
 - a. Polk SWCD
Amanda Brown informed the group that the Polk SWCD has received a grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to do work in the central Iowa WMA watersheds. This funding will go towards getting conservation practices on the ground in the rural areas utilizing the Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework (ACPF) tool. Polk SWCD will also be partnering with the Iowa Soybean Association to complete the ACPF on Fourmile Creek, assist with outreach events, and complete conservation plans. Brown also spoke about the Metro Waste Authority demonstration farm that is being planned for the East

Landfill site in Camp Creek. Currently, there is an application in the federal funding pool to fund a wetland this year on that property. She is also working to finish designs for a saturated buffer, prairie strips, and a bioreactor.

John Swanson said that he met with the city of Altoona about developing a stream buffer ordinance. During the meeting an idea was brought up that pointed out the need for a more “variable” buffer ordinance. This would stray away from the one size fits all buffer width recommendation and instead focus on wider buffers in critical areas and potentially smaller buffers in stable areas. Swanson stated that Polk SWCD will be working to hire a consultant to look at this option and he will follow up with cities individually.

Swanson mentioned that the Polk SWCD partnered with the Women Food and Agriculture network to apply for an education/outreach grant focused in the Mud/Camp/Spring watersheds. The goal of this grant proposal was to have landowner meetings within these watersheds specifically geared towards women landowners. Unfortunately, this grant was not funded but Polk SWCD is still working with WFAN to make these meetings happen.

A Request for Proposals (RFP) was sent out by the Polk SWCD recently. Swanson said that the goal of this is to get a good list of projects from jurisdictions that can be used for future grant and other funding opportunities. He also mentioned that the Bondurant Community Foundation will be holding their first clean up event on Mud Creek. This event will be April 28th, 2018 at 8:30am at the Bondurant Legion Hall.

b. MPO

Allison Riley said that MPO is still moving forward on the water trails plan. ISG is finishing up plans for smaller creeks throughout the metro and public events will be held regarding the downtown dam removals. The discussion on how water quality fits into this plan is still being discussed with experts.

Capital Crossroads has chosen green infrastructure and affordable housing as topics for the next local government collaborative sessions through DMACC. More information will be forthcoming as the process moves along. Swanson stated that the main focus for the green infrastructure portion will be education.

Swanson gave the group two upcoming event dates to remember. More information will be coming when the events get closer

Lower Cedar Greenway Tour – May 22nd in SE Iowa

Green Infrastructure Conference – October 2nd in Ankeny Iowa

5. Army Corps Spring Creek Study

Swanson said that the Army Corps of Engineers has created the model of the Spring Creek watershed. This is currently being sent out to engineers from the jurisdictions for review and feedback. Once feedback is received and changes are made, future scenarios for the watershed will be ran. The next call is May 9th at 2:00pm.

6. WMA Member Updates

The jurisdictions present were asked if they had any updates they would like to talk about. Vern Willey said that the city of Altoona is still working on a new park system on the southeast corner of town that includes large detention basins and other water quality and recreational aspects. Altoona is also working closely with Swanson on developing a buffer ordinance.

Madeline Sturms said that the city of Pleasant Hill will be participating in the Earth Day Trash Bash again this year. She encourages other jurisdictions to participate as well. She said that the city is also doing a stormwater series that involves public events to educate residents. Swanson will be speaking at the one on May. Sturms also stated that Snyder and Associates put together a CIP plan that just focuses on stormwater, containing 1.5 million dollars in future projects.

7. Other comments/discussion

Swanson said he will be reaching out to all member jurisdictions within the next month to set up times to complete city council updates.

8. Next meeting; July 11th, 2018

Altoona City Hall

9. Adjourn

Vern Willey 1st, Robert Rice 2nd, 2:11pm