



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

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

**APRIL 13, 2016
1:30 PM**

Attendees: Madeline Sturms, Skip Dunbar, Cory Eshelman, Pat Boddy, Jane Clark, Teva Dawson, Jennifer Welch, Mark Arentsen, Kyle Ament, Russell Wilkins, Jim Utter, Karen Oppelt, Robert Rice, John Swanson, Amanda Brown, Ben Champ, Mark Land, Kyle Riley, Amanda Oswald

1. Welcome – Vern Willey, Chair
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
 - a. *January 13, 2016 meeting minutes up for approval*
 - b. *Karen Oppelt 1st, Bob Rice 2nd*
 - c. *Minutes approved*

3. Watershed Management Plan Discussion – *Mark Land*
 - a. Metro Waste Authority Items

Mark Land discussed the progress of the final Watershed Management Plan. The report is complete with the exception of information that Metro Waste Authority wants to include in the plan. Mark suggested approving the plan today with supplemental pages later and an update to the website copy.

- b. Final Watershed Management Plan – Approval
 - *There were no further questions or comments.*
 - *Mark Arentsen 1st, Karen Oppelt 2nd*
 - *Watershed Management Plan approved*
4. Public Meeting Planning – *All Attendees*
 - a. May 17, 2016 at SE Polk High School
Madeline explained that the commons area is reserved at the high school but the group needs to be out by 7pm because there is another event following.
 - b. Content
The content will contain an inside discussion and different hands-on activities. At the open house that was previously held, it turned into more of a presentation setting because of the setup. Pat suggested the group considers that when setting

up for the Public Meeting. Pat also discussed her concern for having too many outdoor activities. The Walnut Creek Public Meeting had a good turnout but it was a windy day and people seemed to be more spread out. She suggested focusing on 1 or 2 activities that are close together. Amanda Brown suggested utilizing the rainfall simulator from ISWEP. Kyle Riley suggested using the flood simulator from IFSMA. Pat also wondered if there was an Environmental Club at the high school. Jennifer agreed and thought maybe students would have something to share at the Public Meeting.

Mark Land noted that Snyder would be preparing the agenda and start to get publicity for it within the next week.

c. Website

A website has not yet been developed but we are in the process of obtaining a URL.

5. Other Items – Mark Land/Jennifer Welch

a. WQI NRS Update

Amanda Brown gave an update on activities she was working on for the watershed. She is promoting an event for women landowners in the watershed that is tailored to the conservation of legacy farms. She sent out 71 letters and is planning the event for next Thursday, April 21.

Amanda also discussed the Profit Zone Management Tool that was developed by AgSolver. She is planning a lunch event in July or August at the FAA Enrichment Center to promote this tool and the conservation aspects it has. This will include the central Iowa watersheds, including Walnut Creek, Fourmile Creek, Big Creek, and Mud, Camp, and Spring Creek. Pat Boddy suggested involving the Soil and Water Future Task Force to help publicize because they are heavily engaged in this topic and have connections with agricultural landowners.

Bob Rice suggested documenting the before and after progress of the projects and efforts that are being done in the watersheds.

b. Watershed Coordinator Funding Update

Mark Land discussed the document that was handed out to the group, which had broken down costs by members of the WMA to help implement the plan moving forward. It would be an agreement between Polk County and Polk Soil and Water Conservation District. A cost sharing model was utilized by using watershed area and population. The same discussion has been held at the Fourmile Creek WMA meeting, with no concerns, and will be had at the Walnut Creek meeting on May 23rd. July 1st is the anticipated start date of the contract. The contracts would be service agreements between Polk County and the jurisdictions. Polk SWCD has \$0 contribution but will assist with property owner contact and implementation, as well as housing the Watershed Coordinator.

Bob Rice also discussed that Polk County carries a lot of the cost and responsibility. If all of the WMAs accept this proposal, then the contracts will be

made on an annual basis and be continued unless they hear differently. This way, the program can evolve and be flexible but still have structure. Polk County needs consensus from all of the jurisdictions quickly because there is money coming and they need to create the agreements.

- *Motion to approve Watershed Coordinator Funding Proposal*
 - *Skip Dunbar 1st, Mark Arentsen 2nd*
 - *Watershed Coordinator Funding Proposal approved*
6. Adjourn at 2:15 pm
- *Skip Dunbar 1st, Bob Rice 2nd*