



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

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

**October 11th, 2018
2:30 PM**

Attendees:

WMA Members:

*Chris Widmer – City of Pleasant Hill
Jennifer Welch – Polk SWCD
John Horton – City of Bondurant
Vern Willey – City of Altoona
Skip Dunbar- City of Runnells
Bob Rice – Polk County*

Others:

*Jon Hanson- City of Altoona
John Swanson – Polk SWCD
Mark Land – Snyder & Associates
Cliford Leonard- Public
Amanda Brown – Polk SWCD
Franny Medeiros – Polk County EMA
Craig Clarkson – Snyder and Associates
Pam Mollenhaur- UI Hygienic Lab
Russ Wilkins - Landowner
Adam Fenderick – PCCB
Kyle Riley – Polk County*

1. Welcome/Introductions – *Chris Widmer, Chair 2:31*
2. Approval of Agenda
 - a. *Vern Willey 1st, Skip Dunbar 2nd*
 - b. *Agenda approved*
3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
 - a. *July 12th, 2018 meeting minutes up for approval.*
 - b. *Vern Willey 1st, Skip Dunbar 2nd*
 - c. *Minutes approved*
4. Implementation Update
 - a. Polk SWCD
John Swanson informed the group that the Urban Water Quality Initiative Grant Program through the IDALS was now accepting applications for water quality projects. He gave an overview of the grant, stating that IDALS likes to fund stormwater management projects such as wetlands, bioretention cells...etc. There is a requirement to work with an urban conservationist, so cities interested in submitting an application should contact him or Jennifer Welch. The grant is due

December 7th, 2018. Swanson said to reach out to him with any potential ideas or to brainstorm what may work best in your city. There is a 50-50 match requirement.

Swanson said that the Capitol Crossroads Local Government Collaborative stormwater education series wrapped up this week. He gave an overview of these meetings and some topics that were discussed, stating a main focus was to educate on importance of developing stormwater policy. Swanson posed a question to the group asking what members thought could be done moving forward so the momentum does not fizzle out. He said that an idea that came up at the last meeting was to hold work sessions at upcoming city council meetings. Bob Rice stated that it is important to push that we are trying to develop these stormwater policies to create consistency across the metro, not to create more of a workload. Consistent policies was something that was stressed by developers early in the stormwater policy conversation. John Horton said that it is important to continue to keep developers on board and make sure we start treating stormwater like the utility that it is. Swanson said there will need to be educational meetings in the future to keep this effort moving. He asked jurisdictions to contact him with any other next steps they would like to see.

Swanson highlighted the upcoming MCS year in review work session that is scheduled for November 14th at the Polk SWCD office. The session will begin with an overview of what has been accomplished in the watersheds this year, focusing on relating the accomplishments back to our plan goals. The second half of the work session will be small group discussion on what the WMA board sees as priorities moving into the next year.

- b. MPO
No Update
 - c. WMA Jurisdictions
No Update
5. Discussion – The Rain Campaign, Stormwater Education Grant
Swanson said that Polk SWCD was recently awarded the DNR Education Grant. The award amount is \$75,000 and would be used to carry out a metro wide urban educational campaign. This campaign would focus on getting information to residents on stormwater issues and what they can do on their properties. There would also be a secondary focus on educating city staff on stormwater practices and how to promote them to their residents, utilizing city cost share programs more. There will be two trainings for staff and a variety of educational and outreach materials developed. All of this material will be provided to the cities to use when they leave the trainings. Swanson asked what message members want to get out to their residents. Rice stated that due to the recent flooding, many residents have questions on what their resources are to help alleviate water issues on their own properties. There are also many questions about easements; what they mean and what residents can do on them that will not affect surrounding neighbors. Horton said that highlighting the importance and function of drainage swales is needed.

6. WMAs of Iowa Update

Rice gave an overview of what the WMAs of Iowa is and why is got started. He said that currently, the Iowa Water Center is in charge of keeping this group together and running. There will be an annual conference tentatively set for some time in early April 2019. The date will be sent out once it is finalized. There are some subcommittee opportunities if members are interested in getting more involved with these statewide group. Amanda Brown said that you can reach out to her or Rice if interested. Rice that that this group highlighted how important it will be to get drainage districts involved with the individual WMAs moving forward.

7. Other comments/discussion

Brown stated that the current Water Quality Initiative grant that is helping Polk SWCD cost share with farmers on conservation practices will be expiring this December. She is currently working on writing the extension for this grant, extending the funding for another three years. She also stated that this funding will be utilized next Spring to install a wetland on the Metro Waste Authority property in Camp Creek.

Rice introduced a new Polk County water quality engineer – Kyle Riley. Riley will be focusing on the water resources side of things and will be greatly involved with the WMAs.

Skip Dunbar stressed the importance of the WMAs communicating with one another and working together throughout the state.

8. Next Quarterly Meeting; January 9th, 2019

Altoona City Hall

9. Adjourn

Vern Willey 1st, John Horton 2nd, 3:20pm

Upcoming Meetings

2018 MCS Year in Review Work Session

November 14th, 1:30-3:30pm
Polk SWCD Conference Room
1513 N Ankeny Blvd STE 3
Ankeny, IA 50023

Council of WMAs

November 19th, 2:00pm
Polk County Public Works
5885 NE 14th Street
Des Moines, IA 50313