



Unapproved Minutes of the March 1, 2022, quarterly meeting of the Upper Cedar Watershed Management Improvement Authority

The quarterly meeting of the UCWMIA was called to order on March 1, 2022, at 18:01 by chair Linda Tjaden.

Present: Linda Tjaden, Dave Lehman, Doug Johnson, Kip Ladage, Josh Heims, Doug Moehle, Jackie Armstrong, Tom Heidenwirth, Ron Lenth, Mark Smeby, Sherm Lundy, and Dr. William Crumpton.

Motion by Tom Heidenwirth to approve the March 1, 2022, quarterly meeting agenda. Seconded by Dave Lehman. Motion carried.

Motion by Doug Moehle to approve the December 7, 2021, quarterly meeting minutes. Seconded by Kip Ladage. Motion carried.

Reports:

Dr William Crumpton reported on research he is conducting on the effectiveness of numerous CREP and otherwise funded denitrifying wetland across Iowa. His research is also studying the effectiveness of smaller wetlands further up in watersheds which he referred to as "tile zone wetland sites". He noted that the CREP wetlands being monitored in Floyd county have been removing on average 30% of the nitrates entering the wetlands. These wetlands are removing approximately 1600 Kilograms/Hectare (1427 Pounds/Acre) of nitrogen per acre of wetland. Dr. Crumpton also emphasized that future siting of denitrifying wetlands will need to target locations that have a very high percentage of cropland in the watersheds above them in order to utilize funding most effectively because watersheds with higher percentages of cropland have higher losses of nitrates through tile water.

Discussion was held regarding potential funding for WMA coordinators with American Rescue Plan Act money appropriate to counties in the WMA. The general consensus was that these funds are essentially already spoken for in each county. Lobbying for legislative support for WMA coordinators is apparently still the best option. Kate Hansen, Policy Associate with The Center For Rural Affairs, sent the attached brochure they developed for WMA's to use in support of efforts to work with legislators to establish future budgeted funding for WMA coordinators. Doug Johnson provided information regarding several USDA-NRCS programs that received considerable funding through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These programs include the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program, the Watershed Rehabilitation Program, and the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Contact the Iowa NRCS state office for more details.

Kip Ladage moved to have the UCWMIA send a letter in support of HR 481-The Flood Resiliance and Taxpayer Savings Act to Congresswoman Cindy Axne. Ron Lenth seconded the motion. Motion carried. Bill details can be seen at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/481/all-info>.

Doug Johnson reported that he has made no progress on getting the UCWMIA web site updated.

Doug Johnson reported that the Floyd SWCD has effectively declined to act as fiscal agent for the UCWMIA. Linda Tjaden volunteered to initiate a discussion with Floyd County Auditor Gloria Carr to determine the potential and the pathway for Floyd County to act as fiscal agent for the UCWMIA.

Doug Johnson reported that Charles City's application for a \$100,000 WQI urban conservation project grant from IDALS for an urban conservation practices demonstration project has been approved. This project will demonstrate infiltration based stormwater management practices applicable to commercial and residential properties. The project site is city property presently being developed as an arboretum.

Doug Johnson reported on a meeting he conducted for absentee landowners in the Charles City watershed as part of an outreach program targeting these landowners. He encouraged other SWCD's in the UCWMIA to develop outreach programs targeting absentee landowners.

Upcoming Events:

None reported.

Suggestions for June Meeting Agendas:

RCPP Cedar River Watershed Source Water Partnership project update – **Mary Beth Stevenson; Watersheds and Source Water Coordinator for the City of Cedar Rapids**

Next meetings:

The 2022 annual meeting is scheduled for June 7, 2022, at 18:00 at the Charles City public library. Election of officers to serve June 1, 2022, through May 31, 2023, will be held at this meeting. Dave Lehman (present Vice Chair/Chair Elect) is scheduled to be elected to Chair. Be prepared to nominate individuals to serve as Vice Chair/Chair Elect and Secretary for the coming year. Seriously consider accepting the nomination for and serving in one of these positions.

The June 7 quarterly meeting will follow immediately after the conclusion of the annual meeting. Doug Johnson noted that the Zastrow meeting room at the Charles City library has been reserved for June 7, 2022, and September 6, 2022. Reservations for meetings after September 6, 2022, will need to be arranged.

Motion by Doug Johnson to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Sherm Lundy. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 19:30.

Submitted April 11, 2022

Douglas Johnson
UCWMIA Secretary