To: Cities, Counties, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and other stakeholders in the Lower Cedar Watershed

From: Muscatine SWCD and other members of the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority

Date: May 4, 2018

Subject: Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority Meeting on May 8, 2018

**BACKGROUND:** In 2010, Iowa lawmakers passed legislation authorizing the creation of Watershed Management Authorities (Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 466B Subchapter II). A Watershed Management Authority (WMA) is a mechanism for cities, counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and stakeholders to cooperatively engage in planning and management at the watershed scale. A WMA is being formed for the Lower Cedar Watershed including parts of Cedar, Johnson, Jones, Linn, Louisa, Muscatine, and Scott Counties.

A WMA is formed by a Chapter 28E Agreement by two or more eligible political subdivisions within the watershed. A board of directors governs the WMA, which may undertake the following activities:

* Assess and reduce flood risk;
* Assess and improve water quality;
* Monitor federal flood risk planning and activities;
* Educate residents of the watershed regarding flood risks and water quality; and
* Allocate moneys made available to the Authority for purposes of water quality and flood mitigation.

A WMA does not have taxing authority and it may not acquire property through eminent domain.

**PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE:** The quarterly meeting of the Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority board of directors has been scheduled for Tuesday, May 8th at 6:30 pm in the Cedar County Courthouse (400 Cedar Street, Tipton, IA 52772). This public meeting will be held in the large meeting room on the lower level of the courthouse. Cities, Counties, SWCDs and other watershed stakeholders are encouraged to attend and learn how they can collaborate with this important organization.

**MEETING AGENDA**: The complete meeting agenda follows, in addition to the full list of invited cities, counties, and SWCDs. Please post the agenda in a public location and share the invitation widely with staff, elected officials, and other interested stakeholders.

**Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 8th , 2018 at 6:30 pm**

**Cedar County Courthouse**

**(large meeting room on lower level)**

**400 Cedar Street**

**Tipton, IA 52772**

**Meeting Agenda**

1. Call to order and introductions
2. Lower Cedar update:
   1. Identify additional board members and alternates
3. Vision Statement
   1. Present options
   2. Discuss
   3. Select Vision statement
4. Grant opportunities
   1. Watershed Planning grant
   2. State Soil Conservation Committee Research and Demonstration Grant
5. Committee Establishment
   1. Discuss and decide on committees
   2. Committee volunteers

1. Other business
   1. Member updates, announcements, and events
   2. Fundraising- start up expenses, matching for grants
2. Public Input
3. Flooding Issues
   1. Josh Spies presentation
   2. WMA members share flooding experiences
4. Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 14th
5. Adjournment

***Please post this meeting notice and agenda in a public location.***

**Lower Cedar WMA – Eligible Members**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Counties & SWCDs** | **Cities** |
| Cedar | Alburnett |
| Johnson | Atalissa |
| Jones | Bennett |
| Linn | Bertram |
| Louisa | Cedar Rapids |
| Muscatine | Conesville |
| Scott | Durant |
|  | Fredonia |
|  | Hiawatha |
|  | Lisbon |
|  | Lone Tree |
|  | Marion |
|  | Martelle |
|  | Mechanicsville |
|  | Mount Vernon |
|  | Nichols |
|  | Robins |
|  | Springville |
|  | Stanwood |
|  | Stockton |
|  | Tipton |
|  | Walcott |
|  | West Branch |
|  | West Liberty |
|  | Wilton |