



**Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 12th, 2019 at 6:30 pm
Cedar County Courthouse
(large meeting room on lower level)
400 Cedar Street
Tipton, IA 52772**

Board Members present: Jon Bell (Cedar County), Bill Waldie (Johnson County), James Drahos (City of Bertram), Rich Golinghorst (Scott SWCD), Ed Kocal (Scott County), Mike Tertinger (Linn County), Holly Howard (Muscatine SWCD), Jason Foster (Atalissa), Emery Davis (Linn SWCD), John Kostichek (City of Walcott), Chris Ball (City of Wilton), Marcy McBride (Johnson Co. SWCD), Roger Laughlin (City of West Branch), Alan Weets (Cedar Co. SWCD), Jeff Sorensen (Muscatine County).

Others Present: Sue Hall (press), Tara Cullison (Bi-State Regional), Jodi Freet (Cedar County EMA), Hannah Howard (TNC), Ron Schott (local farmer), Jon Koch (City of Muscatine), Eric Furnas (City of Muscatine).

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to order and Introductions
 - a. Meeting called to order by Chairperson Jon Bell at 6:33 pm
2. Lower Cedar WMA Administrative Update:
 - a. Approval of the Agenda – (Action) Motion by Rich Golinghorst, second by John Kostichek. Motion carried.
 - b. Approve minutes from August 13th, 2019 Board meeting – (Action) Motion by Tertinger, second by Sorensen. Motion carried.
3. Secretary election (Action) Jeff Sorensen was nominated. Chris Ball motioned to elect Jeff Sorensen as secretary, seconded by Rich Golinghorst. Motion carried.
4. Donations update: Bill Waldie updated the board on our account: \$12,771.84. We have earned \$71.84 in interest.
5. DNR Planning Grant (Action)
 - a. General information- 18 months, milestones and deliverables
 - b. Establish committees

- i. Selection Committee: Mary Beth Stevenson, Amy Foster, Jon Bell, Mike Tertinger, Eric Furnas, & Jodi Freet
 - ii. Technical advisory committee: Bill Waldie will serve as the Board representative
 - iii. Ag advisory committee: Rich Golinghorst, Eric Furnas, & Alan Weets, and a representative of the Farm Bureau TBD.
 - iv. Urban advisory committee: Mike Tertinger, Chris Ball, John Kosticheck, & Ed Kocal.
 - c. RFP Consultant- Publish by Nov. 25, close Jan. 10, RFP public meeting- Dec. 9
 - d. Approve LCWMA RFP process. (Action) Motion by Jeff Sorensen, second by Rich Golinghorst. Motion carried to approve all 4 items listed below.
 - i. LCWMA authorizes a RFP for a consultant.
 - ii. LCWMA authorizes the selection committee to approve RFP.
 - iii. LCWMA authorizes the selection committee to review proposals.
 - iv. LCWMA authorizes the Selection committee to recommend their selection to the LCWMA Board.
 - e. Board member survey over water quality @ February meeting- invitation to assist in drafting questions. Bill Waldie and Hannah Howard volunteered to assist in drafting questions.
6. Funding mechanism for LCWMA discussion
- a. Review formulas
 - i. Indian Creek- 6 entities: 60% area and 40% value of property in floodway to figure out % each entity should pay.
 - ii. Membership fee.
 - b. Discuss formulas: Boone River made their coordinator into a full-time position, there are positive and negatives either way you go.
 - c. The board decided since we did not have enough information about different formulas we couldn't choose one to adopt for the LCWMA, but the board asks each member to ask their organization what they can do to support the LCWMA for this fiscal year, every contribution is valuable to accomplish our goals.
 - d. The funds that we have raised thus far were the key to us being awarded the WMA Planning grant and will be utilized to accomplish the goals we had initially planned to utilize the funds for.
 - e. Future budget needs: we will need around \$30,000 in match for our \$125,000 hydrologic study for the Lower Cedar watershed if FEMA accepts our application. This could happen in the next 1-2 years. An estimate to provide an appropriate salary for a watershed coordinator would be around \$50,000.

- f. Once the WMA planning grant and hydrologic study are completed the LC watershed will be in a much better position to apply and receive grants for projects. The phrase spend money to get money can be applied in this situation.
 - g. Announcement: Holly Howard, Lower Cedar Watershed Coordinator has received a promotion to become a fulltime NRCS Soil Conservationist with benefits and a permanent position, as result she will no longer be able to serve as the watershed coordinator. "I truly have loved doing the watershed work and am committed to the Lower Cedar watershed efforts. I plan on continuing my involvement as a volunteer representative. It will look different, but if we all work together WE can still accomplish the goals we have been aiming for. Also, myself and a few others are actively working on what the plan will be moving forward with the WMA planning Grant."- Holly
7. Purchasing and ordering items approval
 - a. Banner design
 - b. Ordering a banner (Action) Motion by Bill Waldie, second by Jeff Sorensen. Motion carried.
8. Cedar River Coalition- update
 - a. Last meeting was Nov. 8. At the meeting a climatologist presented, plus many of the leading voices in the natural resources, WMA's, and Agriculture in the state. There were many great breakout groups where individuals were able to discuss with many of these leaders. A reoccurring thought was that IWILL would be a great thing to help improve a lot of the funding issues faced in the natural resources.
9. Other business
 - a. Member updates, announcements, and events
 - b. A Cedar River basin initiative RCPP proposal is being created and they will probably ask for a letter of support from the LCWMA board and the board thought it would be appropriate to send a letter of support.
10. Public Input: Jon Koch is formally letting the board know that there is interest for the City of Muscatine to join the LCWMA. The LCWMA is interested in the city joining as well.
11. Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 11th @ 6:30 PM Cedar County Courthouse
12. Meeting adjourned at 8:11 pm. Motion by Bill Waldie, second by Rich Golinghorst. Motion carried.