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: February 7, 2020

Subject: Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority Meeting on February 11, 2020

**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, February 11 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, February 11, 2020 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. Treasurer report
   1. Confirm financial commitments for Fiscal Year 2021
   2. Invoice requests
3. Watershed Coordinator update
   1. TNC agreement with NRCS for Iowa Partners for Conservation grant
   2. Estimated timeline for coordinator hire
4. DNR Watershed Planning Grant update
   1. Action item: Authorize WMA Board Chair to execute contract with DNR
   2. Upcoming Grant Tasks:
      1. Develop and publish planning services Request For Proposals (subcommittee)
5. WMA Funding Discussion
   1. Introduce funding formula concept
   2. Example funding formulas (Indian Creek WMA, Middle Cedar WMA)
   3. Discuss target budget amount
6. Other business
   1. WMAs of Iowa update
   2. Member updates, announcements, and events
7. Public Input
8. Next Meeting – Set date for May 2020
9. 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 |