**Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority**

**Board of Directors Meeting**

**Tuesday, August 14th, 2018 at 6:30 pm**

**Cedar County Courthouse**

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

**400 Cedar Street**

**Tipton, IA 52772**

**Meeting Agenda Revised**

1. Call to order and Introductions
2. Lower Cedar WMA Administrative Update:
	1. Approval of the Agenda – (Action) moved by Jeff Sorenson and seconded by Mike Tertinger, motion carries
	2. Approve minutes from May 8, 2018 Board meeting – (Action) moved by Bob Axtell and seconded by Richard Golinghorst, motion passes
	3. Identify additional board members and alternates; signed agreement documents,
	4. Fundraising update- Waiting for a fiscal agent, please bring your organization’s pledge to the next meeting, but wait to bring check until we have said that we have an account set up to accept the startup funds.
3. Lower Cedar Watershed Coordinator role explanation
	1. NRCS-many duties taking up the bulk of my time: Assist farmers to implement conservation practices on their land, create conservation plans, outreach events and programs, customer service for office, educational opportunities with individuals and groups, meet with land owners to assess issues and help plan solutions, enter data, CRP status Reviews, compliance plans, and assist with government
	2. SWCD- Assist with district projects, meetings, fundraisers, apply for grants, and assist in disbursing WQI funds and other allocations.
	3. WMA- Coordinate meetings, plan agenda, meeting minutes, attend Coordinator and other WMA meetings: State WMA meeting and Cedar River Coalition.
4. Logo Development – (Action)
	1. Abbreviate Lower Cedar WMA name to Lower Cedar is possibility
	2. Logo discussion
		1. Other words to possibly add: partnership, responsibility, alliance, coalition,
		2. Put our mission statement in the logo
		3. Potentially have schools do a logo contest
		4. Visual ideas for logo
			1. Person doing recreation: canoeing, fishing, playing
			2. Stream with cow drinking water and person fishing
		5. Logos cost $600-1000,
		6. Mary Beth has UI professor who has students to put team together of graphic design that she will look into.
		7. Working to get to something in common.
5. Committee Formation – (Action)
	1. Outreach and education - Speakers for meetings and event planning such as river cleanup – need 5 volunteers
		1. Bill Waldie, Hannah Howard, Holly Howard, Mary Beth Stevenson, and Jennifer Fencl.
		2. Web design subcommittee - need 3 volunteers: Chad Arp, Mary Beth Stevenson provide data and information, Laura Krouse.
			1. Talk with Ben Curtis from ISWEP to possibly do it, he did English river.
			2. Pay for good domain name
			3. Website professionally developed cost $600-1000 and pay yearly fee as well
	2. Finance - Seed money request and future budgeting – need 5 volunteers
		1. Bill Waldie, Richard Golinghorst, Jon Bell, Jeff Sorenson, Holly Howard
		2. Need fiscal agent, talking with Johnson County Auditor. It’s a possibility.
		3. By November meeting ask organization for $100-500 pledge
		4. Some WMAs have developed a formula for how decide organization’s contribution
		5. Good to have match money for grants
		6. In kind and cash matches for grant often necessary
		7. We plan to have invoices for the seed money requested
		8. Letter for seed money ask will be developed by finance committee.
	3. Grant - Identify & apply for grant opportunities – have 5 members: Mike Tertinger, Mary Beth, Jodi Bailey, Josh Spies, and Holly Howard.
6. Grant update
	1. Watershed Planning grant-
		1. Grant helps create a guiding document for WMA.
			1. It’s a plan, identifies conservation priorities, land use assessments, flood conditions, water impairment, geographic priorities, and areas of greatest need.
			2. Hired person creates it and is paid through grant
			3. It’ like a book
		2. Don’t know date yet or amount for grant
	2. Other options
		1. Have different pieces of puzzle be worked on by different organizations, more grass roots
			1. U of I- sustainable communities might be an option
				1. One or 2 project ideas smaller and more flexible, more specific piece- survey, outreach, hydrology, geography,
				2. Might have 2 students to work on GIS project this fall
			2. DNR mapping, USGS- hydrology,
		2. Iowa initiative for sustainable communities take apps in February
			* 1. Work with one entity, wide range of projects, competitive, put all different projects you want done under this umbrella, involve multiple colleges within the university
7. Guest Speaker from Soil Health Partnership – Elyssa McFarland
	1. Partnerships work with Corn growers, soybean association, wheat growers, land grants,
	2. Corn and soybean rotation is most farming in this area
	3. Farmer sizes and tillage practice variance
	4. ways to bring a diverse range of operations to table is important
	5. farmers are a wide range of people
	6. 5 year project, putting science to soil health
		1. Cover crops, nutrient management
		2. Ask: What are your problems you’re experiencing on your farm and go from there to decide what to test.
		3. 4 comparisons of 2 treatments partner program, very full data
			1. Measuring soil health with nutrient tool, Haney and Cornell test
		4. Associate program- comparisons, less data, test out new ideas
	7. How to reach out to farmers- Farm Bureau, soybean growers association, commodity organizations are great, post on likeminded groups where will be more engaged-like cover crop groups, look at messaging groups are already doing similar things
		1. Communicate messages different ways, don’t be afraid to present message unique ways
		2. Ag retail always prep different messages, brand differently according to audience
		3. Utilize different customer bases
	8. Reduce barriers to participation- deliver some of services or messages through other existing networks.
		1. Farmers are parents and church members
		2. Give presentations at customer appreciation nights or at agronomy training nights
		3. Figure out asks, or primary messaging for WMA and Elyssa will offer her advice on how to do that.
8. Other business
	1. Member updates, announcements, and events

 **Fall events 2018**

**Soil Health and Cover Crop training**- Tuesday Aug. 28th 9:30-12:30 Marr Park Washington Co.

**Tree Crop Field Class**- Wapello farmer sharing about forest farming systems- Sept. 5 1-4 Wapello

**Cedar River Coalition**- Sept. 6th Cedar Falls

**Louisa Co. Farm Bureau Field Day**- Soil health and Conservation Sept. 7th 12-4 Roger Edwards Farm Louisa Co.

**Cedar County Pollinator Tour**- Sept. 7th 1-4, NRCS Cedar Co. office

**Women, Land, & Legacy Listening Session**- Sept. 10 2-4 or 6:30-8:30 Durant Community Center

**Field Day on Heckman farms**- Sept. 25th 3-6, Learn about new hog buildings and soil health

**Cedar River Ramble-** Sept. 29th, 10-4 Muscatine Co.

**Backyard Forest Conference**- Sat. Oct. 6th, 8:30-3:40 Johnson Co. ISU ext.

**Swamp Stomp**- Celebrate nature in Muscatine County along the Cedar River.

1. Public Input
2. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 13th @ 6:30 PM Cedar County Courthouse
3. Adjournment: Bill Waldie moved and Richard Golinghorst seconded, motion passed and meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.