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 28, 2019

Subject: Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority Meeting on March 5th, 2019

**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, March 5th, 2019 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 WMA Administrative Update:
   1. Approval of the Agenda – (Action)
   2. Approve minutes from November 13th, 2018 Board meeting – (Action)
   3. Identify additional board members and alternates; signed agreement documents- Bertram & Durant submitted signed 28 E agreement
3. Fiscal agent update (Action)
4. Startup funds Instructions (Action)
5. Lower Cedar WMA Logo adoption (Action)
6. Preparation to submit for Watershed Planning Grant
   1. Share and discuss county Hazard Mitigation plans
      1. Muscatine County
      2. Cedar County
      3. Linn County
      4. Johnson County
      5. Scott County
      6. Louisa County
      7. Jones County
   2. Priorities for water quality/flood mitigation information request
      1. specific locations (bridges, roads, neighborhoods, etc) that are routinely affected by flooding, and are in need of mitigation projects
      2. water quality concerns (drinking water, recreation, etc) that members would like to address
      3. funding needs (what projects would the city do if they had unlimited resources)
      4. water based recreation opportunities or challenges
7. Guest Speaker: Adam Rodenberg- Middle Cedar WMA Project Coordinator
8. Grant Updates
   1. Mill Creek Watershed Development project
   2. WQI-NRS proposal approval (Action)
9. Other business
   1. Member updates, announcements, and events
10. Public Input
11. Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 12th @ 6:30 PM Cedar County Courthouse
12. Adjournment

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

**Lower Cedar WMA – Eligible Members**

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| --- | --- |
| **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 |