



Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 13th, 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), Jacob Donaghy (City of Cedar Rapids), Rich Golinghorst (Scott SWCD), Ed Kocal (Scott County), Mike Tertinger (Linn County), Holly Howard (Muscatine SWCD), Amy Foster (Atalissa), Chad Arp (City of Cedar Rapids), Emery Davis (Linn SWCD).

Others Present: Sue Hall (press), Tara Cullison (Bi-State Regional), Jodi Freet (Cedar County EMA), Josh Spies (TNC), Corey McKinney (ISA), Cassie Druhl (Partners of Scott County Watersheds), Jon Koch (City of Muscatine), Mary Beth Stevenson (DNR).

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 Tertinger, second by Golinghorst. Motion carried.
 - b. Approve minutes from May 14th, 2019 Board meeting – (Action) Motion by Golinghorst, second by Waldie. Motion carried.
3. Guest Speaker: Mill Creek Watershed update- Corey McKinney, Iowa Soybean Association
 - a. Mill Creek 1 of 4 projects, a 2 year project. Watershed plans are a roadmap and farmer generated. Year 1 develop plan & year 2 pursue funding for Best Management Practices (BMP).
 - b. 3 goals established at first farmer meeting:
 - i. Improving water quality and quantity- nutrient levels, erosion, creek flashiness
 - ii. Improving soil health- nutrient levels and soil loss
 - iii. Increase opportunities for farmers for BMP funding
 - c. Meeting 2: Building toolbox- what practice would work for the area to accomplish goals, they liked infield practices like cover crops and no till
 - d. Next steps: use ACPF to discover BMP's, conservation assessment- meeting with farmers 1 on 1, tillage assessment- crops, cover crop use.
4. Donations update
 - a. Fiscal Year 20 (donations received SINCE July 1): \$4,500
 - b. Fiscal Year 19 (donations received BEFORE July 1): \$5,700

- c. Total in LCWMA account: \$10,200
5. Signatories for claims (Action)
- a. To process payments: Need 2 approvals via email to Mike Hensch from- Lower Cedar Watershed Coordinator (Holly Howard) and Treasurer (Bill Waldie) or Chair (Jon Bell). Motion by Golinghorst, second by Foster. Motion carried.
 - b. Payments are processed on Wednesdays and get approved 2 Thursdays later at meeting and then payments are sent.
6. DNR Planning Grant (Action)
- a. Jon Bell has approval to sign DNR WMA planning grant application when complete. Motion by Waldie, second by Golinghorst. Motion carried.
 - b. Allow executive committee to approve grants or letters of support in between board meetings through email. Motion by Foster, second by Kocal. Motion carried.
 - c. Water quality issues of concern to Board members: increase in blue green algae, nitrates, phosphorus, nitrates in drinking water, bacteria, E.coli, unsewered communities, rare ecological communities in state, mussels, well water getting inundated with flood water, erosion, important of soil health and protecting organic matter on fields, losing recreation money due to water quality issues, stream incision, straightening waterways, farming fencerow to fencerow, and loss of existing conservation practices.
7. FEMA disaster funding under the *Hazard Mitigation Grant Program* (HMGP)- update
- a. Submitting the NOI to Iowa Homeland (aka FEMA) this week for grant to fund hydrology study
8. Priority streams for investigation discussion
- a. Amy Foster: Cedar County- Rock Run and Rock Creek due to a lot of recreation, Rock Run is a hard-bottom stream because spring fed, Rock Creek has some DNR snapshot sampling and is a reference site for its high quality.
 - b. Jon Bell: Cedar County- Sugar Creek due to stream bank erosion, stream has changed so much over time and unsure of why (neighbors do have filter strips along bank), Bennett Creek flows into Sugar.
 - c. Ed Kocal- Mud Creek hits all the counties, lots of agriculture, multiple municipalities deal with it.
 - d. Mary Beth Stevenson- Wapsinonoc going through west liberty. west branch of the Wapsinonoc in West Branch. Pike Run was good but not doing so good now. Pike Creek, Honey Creek, Mosquito Creek.
 - e. James Drahos- big creek in Linn county. A lot of erosion, very flashy, slurry in heavy run like sludge.
 - f. Josh Spies- The Nature Conservancy and our partners highest priority streams/sub-watersheds: Pike Run and Pike Creek. The next 3 streams/subwatersheds are Little Mosquito Creek, Chicken Creek, and Honey Creek. Urban sites are important too.
 - g. Urban Creeks: Wapsinonoc & Mud Creek.
 - h. Jon Koch- Mad Creek.
9. Information: Potential new WMA member, City of Muscatine. Still investigating eligibility.
10. Introduction: Emery Davis, Indian Creek Soil Health Coordinator

11. Cedar River Coalition- update

- a. Next meeting Nov. 8 @ Cedar Falls Hartman Reserve: 657 Reserve Dr, Cedar Falls, IA 50613.

12. Other business

Upcoming events



August 19-22 – Mussel Blitz on Wapsipinicon

12:00pm on 19 or 9am 20-22 until 4 pm. Meet at Wakpicada Park by Central City in Linn County. The 2019 Iowa Mussel Blitz will be held weather and water permitting on August 19th through August 22nd, 2019 on the Wapsipinicon River from Troy Mills Dam down to Anamosa Iowa. Contact Scott Gritters: scott.gritters@dnr.iowa.gov



August 22 – Conservation Field Day/ Ag Lease Development

12:00pm – 3:00pm @ Fawcett Farms Cold Spring Pond, 459 290th St., West Branch, IA

Ken Fawcett and family are opening up their farm for a guided tour of the property and discussion of how to incorporate conservation into ag leases. Half day free workshop focusing on land owners. Speakers will include Charles Brown and Virgil Schmitt of ISU Extension, Chris Henning of Practical Farmers of Iowa, and others. A wagon tour & free meal all included.



August 23 – Pasture Talk & Walk

4pm – 7pm @ Doug Darrow Farm, 3727 Calkins Ave., Oxford, IA 52322

Seth Watkins, farmer from Clarinda, Iowa, will share strategies for raising cattle sustainably, including grazing management. He will share about his operation and how he approaches making the system work. Doug Darrow is hosting- and will show his cool season/ warm season rotational grazing system. Free and open to all, complimentary meal



September 6 – Women, Land and Legacy: Grow and Share on Farm Leases

2:00pm – 4:00pm @ Wilton Bank office of DeWitt Bank & Trust Co. 104 West 4th St., Wilton, IA

First Friday of the month learning and sharing opportunity. September topic is taxes, with a panel of tax specialists from DeWitt Bank and Trust presenting. Free refreshments provided.



September 22 – Swamp Stomp

1:00pm – 6:00pm @ Ardon Creek Vineyard and Winery, 2391 Independence Ave. Letts, IA 52754

Celebrate nature with us and enjoy guided hiking tours of the Land of the Swamp White Oak preserve, live bluegrass music, games, door prizes, face painting, wine tasting and more. There's something for all ages! Follow us on Facebook or call 563-886-6214 x3 for the most up to date information on events:

Emery Davis: Cover Crop field day on Wednesday, August 14 from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Marion Airport. The event is free, open to the whole family and includes a complimentary meal.

Great River Rumble was an awesome event and the paddlers thought this area was great and were wonderful hosts. Holly Howard presented a mussel presentation to almost 100 paddlers and they were incredibly engaged. Around 30 people searched for mussels at one site for 30 minutes and one live hickory nut mussel was found. There were multiple recently deceased yellow sandshell mussels, a state threatened species, of various sizes found at the site which points to a reproductive population in the area. It was a great event, so check it out next year!

13. Public Input

14. Next Meeting – Tuesday, November 12th @ 6:30 PM Cedar County Courthouse

15. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 pm. Motion by Golinghorst, second by Tertinger. Motion carried.