

## Lower Cedar Watershed Management Authority

### 2/13/18 Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:32 pm by Josh Spies, as Cyle Geertz the interim chair was unable to attend due to a funeral.
2. **Lower Cedar Update:**
  - a. January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2018 the Lower Cedar WMA was officially filed. This date was later than anticipated due to technical difficulties with filing online.
  - b. The list of board members was updated with additional board members and their alternates.
3. **Lower Cedar Watershed Coordinator:**
  - a. Holly Howard was introduced to the group as the new Lower Cedar Watershed Coordinator. This position is being funded through a USDA NRCS grant program. Holly is housed out of the Muscatine Soil and Water Conservation District office. She will be reaching out to landowners to provide technical assistance, act as a secretary for the Lower Cedar WMA board coordinating email communications and recording meeting minutes, as well as conducting outreach to communities and landowners within the watershed.
4. **Revision of By-laws:**
  - a. Jen Fencil facilitated the discussion to revise the by-laws that were drafted from the Middle Cedar WMA at the last meeting.
  - b. Due to the large size of the board, in the future it may ~~have been~~ difficult to fill a quorum and conduct business at some meetings under the last draft of the by-laws. Jen adjusted Section 6 so that a quorum of six officers of the executive committee is needed to constitute a quorum of the board.
    - i. Jodi Bailey suggested that additional (advisory or non-voting) board members could be added to represent other concerned citizens that would like to participate such as ag partners, community members or landowners.
  - c. Mary Beth Stevenson motioned to approve the revised by-laws, Jon Bell seconded. Motion carried and by-laws were approved.
5. **Selection of Officers and Executive Committee Members:**
  - a. Executive Committee Member positions were staggered so that not all board members will be up for election at the same time. The following terms were determined at random via drawing.
    - Cedar County: 4 years
    - Johnson County: 2 years
    - Linn County: 4 years
    - Louisa County: 4 years
    - Muscatine County: 2 years
    - Scott County: 2 years
    - Cedar SWCD: 3 years

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- Scott SWCD: 3 years
- City of Atalissa: 2 years
- City of Bennett: 4 years
- City of Bertram: 2 years
- City of Cedar Rapids: 3 years
- City of Lisbon: 2 years
- City of Lone Tree: 4 years
- City of Mechanicsville: 3 years
- City of Mount Vernon: 3 years
- City of Nichols: 3 years
- City of Robins: 4 years
- City of Tipton: 3 years
- City of Walcott: 2 years
- City of West Branch: 4 years
- City of Wilton: 2 years
- City of Stanwood: 4 years
- City of Durant: 2 years
- City of Marion: 3 years

b. Officer Elections:

- i. **Chair:** Mary Beth nominated **Jon Bell** (Cedar County) to be Chair, Greg Wagner seconded, motion carried.
1. **Vice-chair: Richard Golinghorst** (Scott County SWCD) nominated himself for Vice-Chair, Jodi Bailey seconded, and motion carried.
2. **Secretary: Mary Beth Stevenson** (City of West Branch) nominated herself for secretary with the Watershed Coordinator Holly Howard acting as the recording secretary, Jodi Bailey seconded. Motion carried.
3. **Treasurer: Bill Waldie** (Johnson County) nominated himself for treasurer, seconded by Randy Griffin. Motion carried.
4. **At-Large: John Kostichek** from City of Walcott, **Michael Tertinger** from Linn County, **Robert Axtell** Muscatine SWCD, **Alan Weets** Cedar County SWCD, **James Drahos** from City of Bertram, **Kelsie Lampe** from City of Nichols, **Chad Arp** from City of Cedar Rapids.
  - Motion was made by the Chair Jon Bell to approve all executive committee at large representatives, Richard Golinghorst seconded. Motion carried.

- c. Mary Beth made a motion to install Holly Howard as the recording secretary, Richard Golinghorst seconded and motion was carried.

6. **Other Business:**

- a. Mary Beth announced that the Cedar River Watershed Coalition Meeting will be taking place at Wickiup Hill Learning Center in Toddville, IA. The meeting will discuss a range of topics including ag conservation, water quality and more. All interested parties are invited to participate. The meeting will take place on March 9<sup>th</sup> from 1 to 4 pm, with an option lunch at noon.
- b. Jon Bell would like for members to begin thinking about what kind of working groups and advisory committees the WMA would like to appoint. If you have anyone in mind, please introduce these ideas at the next WMA meeting.
- c. Holly Howard announced two upcoming events: The Iowa Water Conference and the Muscatine Cover Crop Conference. Holly also mentioned that Iowa Corn is very interested in funding Lower Cedar WMA projects and that the WMA should keep that in mind moving forward.
  - i. The Iowa Water Conference will be taking place March 21-22<sup>nd</sup> in Ames. The conference has a great line up of sessions including water resource topics in urban and rural landscapes.
  - ii. The Muscatine SWCD is hosting the Muscatine Cover Crop Conference which will be held on March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Muscatine Ag Learning Center. Contact Holly for more information.
- d. Mary Beth mentioned that Elyssa McFarland with the Soil Health Partnership would be a great speaker for potential WMA events and/or meetings in the future.
- e. Richard Golinghorst announced that Laura Morris, River Action's Natural Resources and Education Program Manager will be giving a presentation at the monthly forum hosted by the Partners of the Scott County Watersheds on Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 1:30 pm at the Davenport Public Library on East Ave. All are welcome, lunch will be available for a \$5 donation.
- f. Jodi Bailey announced that two watersheds, the English River and the Clear Creek Watershed have access to 75% cost share opportunities within the watershed. Terraces, bioreactors, farm ponds and many more practices are eligible for this cost share, however the properties must fall within either of the watershed boundaries to be eligible. Jodi Bailey or John Rathbun can be contacted with questions or for the application. Check out the Facebook page or the website for more information. Please spread the word to landowners in Iowa and Poweshiek Counties.
- g. Future meetings will continue to take place here at the Tipton Courthouse. Our next meeting will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of May, at 6:30 pm. Holly will coordinate with Jon Bell to set up the meeting and create the agenda. Remember to enter from the south door, it will always be unlocked.

## **7. Adjournment:**

- a. Jon Bell motioned to adjourn the meeting, James Drahos seconded, motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:41pm.