



LOWER CEDAR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 6:30 pm Cedar County Emergency Management Agency 1410 Cedar St, Tipton, Iowa

Board Members Present: Bill Waldie (Johnson County), Dawn Smith (Zoom-Durant), Eric Furnas (Muscatine County), Holly Howard (Zoom-Louisa County SWCD), Marty St Clair (Linn County SWCD), Mike Tertinger (Zoom-Linn County), Mary Beth Stevenson (Cedar Rapids), Ross Paustian (Scott County), Richard Golinghorst (Scott County SWCD), Jon Bell (Cedar County)

Others Present: Alyssa Comer (ECICOG), Emery Davis (Heartland Co-op), Ruth McCabe (Heartland Co-op), Kurt Kirchner (Muscatine County), Katie Hammond (Muscatine County)

1. **Call to Order:** Meeting called to order by Alternate Vice Chairperson Tertinger at 6:34 pm.
2. **Introductions**
3. **Approve Minutes from February 11, 2025, and April 15, 2025 Board Meetings**
Motioned by Waldie, seconded by Stevenson. Motion carried.
4. **Treasurer's Report:**
Waldie gave the LCWMA financial report. Waldie is moving \$6,800 to the admin account, and finances are covered to pay Heartland's contract extension through June 2026. The operations account is at \$63,000.
5. **ECICOG Service Agreement Update:**
Comer shared the updated service agreement. The agreement will cover July 2025-June 2027. The board had no questions.
Motion to approve the Service Agreement between LCWMA and ECICOG by Stevenson, seconded by Furnas. Motion carried.
6. **Letters of Support:**
 - **BlueGAP – National Geographic Freshwater Storytelling Grant**
Comer and St. Clair gave the board background on the University of Iowa BlueGAP program and shared that the Letter of Support is to provide support to the project and grant application, that will focus on storytelling within the Lower Cedar Watershed. Motion to support this grant application and provide a letter of support by Waldie, seconded by St. Clair. Motion Carried.
 - **Iowa Flood Center- Congressional Community Project Funding**
Comer and St. Clair shared with the board that the Iowa Flood Center is looking for support for an application to update bridge monitors that are used throughout the state to measure water level.
Motion to support this grant application and provide a letter of support by Furnas, seconded by Stevenson. Motion carried.

7. Lower Cedar Conservation Outreach Update:

Davis shared the quarterly report with the board and shared that the Batch and Build project is now certified complete. Comer plans to work with Heartland to send out a press release about the completion of the projects.

Heartland surveyed for the next Batch and Build project identifying 17 fields, and 56 tile outlets. Of those 56 outlets, Davis anticipates around 40 being viable for a project.

McCabe shared that PFI lost some of their funding for cover crops, but their existing contracts will be funded. PFI will likely have a minimal expansion of cover crops in the near future.

- **Heartland Contract Extension**

The board agrees to extend the LCWMA/Heartland Co-op contract for one year, for the cost of \$51,000. The board will pay Heartland in four, even, quarterly payments. Comer will finalize the contract extension and share with the board via email before having Bell and McCabe sign. The contract will start July 1, 2025, and go through June 30, 2026.

Motion to approve signature of the 1-year contract extension after Comer sends the final version, and provide quarterly payments to Heartland by Waldie, seconded by St. Clair.
Motion carried.

8. Linn County Soil Health Partnership Update

Cartwright goes through the report shared ahead of time with the board, acknowledging activities recently completed including a master gardeners' presentation, edge-of-field training, Eco Fest, and stream sampling.

9. Other Local Project Updates:

None.

10. Other Business:

- **Funding Opportunities:**

- i. **Current funding availability and changes**

Howard shared with the group the status of cost-share funding available. Currently there is limited funding for EQIP and CSP in Iowa, and federally funded cover crops cost-share. State funding is still available (WQI, SWCD cover crops, first time no-till).

Comer shared a potential grant opportunity to fund Davis's position as LCWMA Watershed Coordinator. The funding opportunity is the Conservation Partners Program through NFWF. The application is due July 15th. Comer asks for a motion from the board to approve applying and providing a letter of support, since the application is due before the board meets again in August.

Motion to approve applying for the NFWF Conservation Partners Program and provide a Letter of Support by Stevenson, seconded by Waldie. Motion carried.

Heartland Co-op is pursuing an oxbow program to restore oxbows throughout the entire state.

WQI wetland in SE Tipton has 290 acres of drainage.

Durant received a grant for a permeable parking lot.

- **Outreach:**

None.

- **Member Updates, Announcements, Events:**

i. Trailblazers Academy- Women's Prescribed Fire Workshop, June 3-5, 2025

11. Next Meeting: August 12th, 2025 @ 6:30PM. The board discussed having the August meeting in Durant to see the project progress. Comer and Smith will coordinate before the next meeting to set up a tour and meeting location.

12. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 7:47pm by Chairperson Bell. Motioned by Stevenson, seconded by Furnas. Motion carried.

Next Meeting –August 12th, 2025 @ 6:30 PM, in Durant with potential site tour beforehand.