

**Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority
Board of Directors Meeting**

Thursday, October 21, 2021, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Benton County Conservation Nature Center &
Virtual meeting due to COVID-19 guidance to practice social distancing

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD), Wayne Castle (Waterloo), Barbara Smith (Grundy County), Al Schafbuch (Tama SWCD), Tracy Seeman (Benton County), Don Shonka (Buchanan County), Sherman Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Maria Perez (Cedar Falls), Steph Lientz (Linn County), Mary Beth Stevenson (Cedar Rapids), Jim Lindaman (Butler SWCD), Dan Bangasser (Grundy Center), Chris Ward (Vinton).

Others Present: Jennifer Fencil (ECICOG), Valerie Decker (UI-CEA), Josh Balk (IDNR), Shelby Williams (Benton BCC), Jeff Geerts (IEDA), Cara Matteson (City of Cedar Rapids), Don Knospe (WHKS Engineering), Clark Porter (IDALS), Nick Fratzke (INRCOG), Greg Walston (ISU Extension), Sean McMahon (IAWA), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center).

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- Meeting was called to order at 3:05 by Vice Chairperson Mary Beth Stevenson.

II. Minutes of Previous Meetings – April 15th and July 8th 2021.

- Motion by Lundy, second by Lindaman to approve both meeting minutes.

III. Watershed Project Update

a. North Iowa Agronomy Partners

- Jason Gomes updated the Board about the project and requested a contract extension for another 6 months due to the challenges of covid in outreach efforts.
Motion by Lundy, second by Smith to approve the contract extension. Motion carried.

b. Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance (IAWA)

- Sean McMahon described possible new fundraising options through the Midwest Agriculture Water Quality Partnership (MAWQP) and Iowa Systems Approach to Conservation Drainage (ISACD) RCPPs. He offered to organize a committee early next year to explore the options.

c. Edge of Field Blitz Project

- Clark Porter described the new project to streamline the design and construction of edge of field practices for interested landowners. The project is a partnership among several coordinators in the Middle and Lower Cedar watersheds and the goal is to

construct 60 – 80 edge of field practices. There will be a construction easement of \$1,000 per project. The SWCD representatives requested that Fencl send Clark's presentation slides.

d. Cedar Rapids Source Water RCPP

- Mary Beth Stevenson reported that Cedar Rapids and NRCS have a signed contract and an agronomist has been hired through a local Coop.

e. Iowa Watershed Approach Update

- Don Knospe from WHKS Engineering provided an update on the IWA projects recently completed or still under construction. Several pictures of completed projects were presented.

IV. Middle Cedar Watershed Plan

- a. Fencl presented the FY23 Budget Committee's proposal. The committee recommends that the FY23 funding target should be \$50,000 to support administrative and grant writing services. The new funding requests for each member entity was provided along with a possible workplan for the funding. The committee also recommended an effort to raise awareness about the watershed plan, funding sources, and examples of projects in the watershed for board representatives and member entities. Board representatives discussed the proposal and agreed to present the new funding request to their member entity and bring the answer to the Board at the January meeting. Fencl will update the funding formula factsheet and send with the presentation slides to the Board and offered to present to policy makers.
- b. Mary Beth Stevenson gave an update on the development of a Watershed Management Plan outreach booklet and retractable banners for outreach events.

V. Other Business

- None discussed

VI. Public Comment

- None discussed

VII. Next Meeting

- The next MCWMA Board of Directors meeting will be held on January 20th from 3:00-5:00 pm. Location TBD.

VIII. Adjourn

- Meeting adjourned at 4:31 pm