

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

Thursday, July 8, 2021, 3:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Benton County Service Center &

Virtual meeting due to COVID-19 guidance to practice social distancing

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present: Fred Abels (Grundy SWCD), Chris Schwartz (Black Hawk County), Barbara Smith (Grundy County), Al Schafbuch (Tama SWCD), Tracy Seeman (Benton County), David Neil (City of La Porte City), Don Shonka (Buchanan County), Sherman Lundy (Black Hawk SWCD), Maria Perez (City of Cedar Falls), Steph Lientz (Linn County), Mary Beth Stevenson (City of Cedar Rapids), Doug Kaiser (Buchanan SWCD), Mark Lowry (Gladbrook), Chris Even (Jesup).

Others Present: Jennifer FencI (ECICOG), Valerie Decker (UI-CEA), Josh Balk (Iowa DNR), Jason Gomes (NIAP), Lee Wagner (IDNR), Cara Matteson (City of Cedar Rapids), Bonnie & Dennis Pruckler (citizen), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center).

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

- Meeting was called to order at 3:03 by Chairperson Chris Schwartz.

II. Minutes of Previous Meeting – April 15, 2021.

- Need to revise and pass at October meeting.

III. Partner Presentations

- Lee Wagner gave a presentation about Iowa SRF Sponsored Projects.
- Mary Beth Stevenson gave a presentation about the Cedar Rapids Source Water RCPP
- Jennifer FencI distributed an update on projects from Adam and discussed the disposal of office items purchased with IWA funding.

IV. Middle Cedar Watershed Plan

- Funding Formula FY23 Budget Proposal Committee is formed with Seeman, Schwartz, Perez, Stevenson, Lowry, Shonka, Abels, and Lundy volunteering to serve. The committee will report to the Board the result of their work in October.
- Discussed the development of a Watershed Management Plan outreach booklet as well as retractable banners for outreach events and project site signs for the remaining watershed planning budget.

V. Watershed Projects Update

a. North Iowa Agronomy Partners

- Jason Gomes updated the Board about the project and the challenges COVID-19 presents to outreach. Despite the challenges, 9,500 acres of cover crop were planted with 5,000 acres being new sign ups.

b. Edge of Field Blitz Project

- Stevenson described the Edge of Field Project as a focused effort to streamline design and installation of edge of field practices to scale up implementation.

VI. Other Business

- Lundy discussed the WMAs of Iowa organization.

VII. Public Comment

- Valorie Decker asked for survey participation and described the resulting report for the Iowa Watershed Approach. The experiences throughout the project will be summarized and distributed.
- Kate Giannini described the final product from the Iowa Flood Center will be a modeling of the projects built and the measurable results for flood storage. Kate also announced that Antonio left the Flood Center to take a position with Iowa State University.

VIII. Next Meeting

- The next MCWMA Board of Directors meeting will be held on July 8 from 3:00-5:00pm. Location TBD.

IX. Adjourn

- Discussed the meeting format and decided that a hybrid of in person and virtual would be best.
- Discussed IWA Project Tour timing and number of sites and set a tentative date.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:36 pm.