



LOWER CEDAR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, August 8, 2023, 6:30 pm West Branch Old Town Hall, 113 N. 1st Street, West Branch

Board Members present: Jon Bell (Cedar County), Bill Waldie (Johnson County), Travis Spevacek (Johnson County SWCD), Travis Glynn (Muscatine County SWCD), Laura Krouse (Linn County SWCD), Eric Furnas (Muscatine County), Ross Paustian (Scott County), Justin Schroeder (Cedar Rapids), Dawn Smith (Durant)

Others Present: Sue Hall (Press), Jodi Freet (Cedar EMA), Kurt Kirchner (Muscatine County), Carol Paustian (resident), Kent Faucett (farmer), Randy Peterson (farmer), Josh Spies (TNC), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center), Emery Davis (Heartland Co-op), Jennifer Fencil (ECICOG)

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chairperson Jon Bell at 6:32 pm
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Minutes from May 9, 2023, Board Meeting
 - Motion by Furnas, second Schroeder. All Ayes. Motion carried.
4. Treasurer's Report by Waldie
 - Financial Statement w/ receivable & expenditure balances. Net Balance approximately \$43,700. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Smith, seconded by Furnas. All Ayes. Motion carried.
 - Heartland Co-op requests to go to quarterly invoicing. Motion to approve quarterly invoicing by Schroeder, second by Spevacek. All Ayes. Motion carried.
 - FY24 Budget / Invoices - Bill sending invoices as members finalize their amounts.
5. Lower Cedar Conservation Outreach Update – Davis, Heartland CO-OP, gave an update to the project (report attached). There is a Field Day planned for June 6th at Kent Faucett's farm to highlight saturated buffers and prairie strips. Another Field Day is planned for August 22nd. The Batch & Build effort has lined up 39 projects with 12 to 15 farmers to install saturated buffers and bioreactors. Davis will ask Johnson County to assist with bidding the project construction.
6. Letter of support for TNC's "Lower Cedar Floodplain Easements" grant application to the RCPP. Motion by Waldie to authorize the Chair to sign the letter committing technical assistance valued at \$25,000 as in-kind support over the 5 year project to coordinate with WMA partners and assist with outreach efforts, seconded by Schroeder. All Ayes. Motion carried.
7. Indian Creek Soil Health Partnership Update – working on the grant contract amendment and filling the vacant Soil Health Coordinator position.
8. Outreach
 - Krouse gave an update on the citizen-led water sampling project in Mt. Vernon to increase water quality awareness. Samples are collected the 3rd Saturday each month and there has been strong resident support.
9. Member Updates & Announcements – Kate Giannini with the Iowa Flood Center reported that their project to expand water monitoring and weather stations in the Lower Cedar Watershed.
10. Next Meeting: August 8, 2023 @ 6:30 PM (Location TBD)
11. Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. Motion by Waldie, second by Spevacek, All Ayes. Motion carried.



LOWER CEDAR WMA

Emery Davis

Conservation Agronomist

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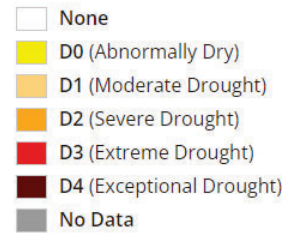
Heartland Coop's Update to the Lower Cedar
Watershed Management Authority



Map released: Thurs. July 27, 2023

Data valid: July 25, 2023 at 8 a.m. EDT

Intensity



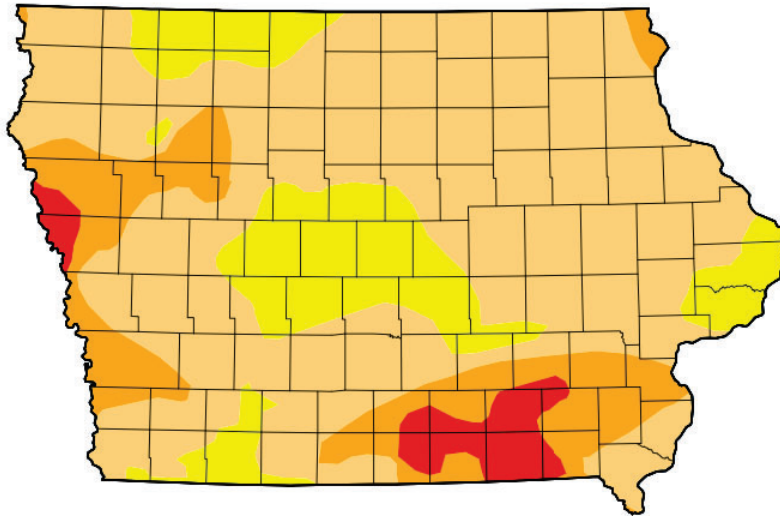
Authors

United States and Puerto Rico Author(s):

[Brian Fuchs](#), National Drought Mitigation Center

Pacific Islands and Virgin Islands Author(s):

[Brad Rippey](#), U.S. Department of Agriculture



WHAT'S HAPPENING NOW:

- Iowa continues to be very dry.
 - Spring 2023 was a tough spring for cover crop users- very dry conditions did not offer much forgiveness in cover crop fields. I'm seeing more hesitancy to continue use or try it for the first time.
- Farmers are making cover crop plans for fall- Airplanes will begin applying cover crops in late-August-September

COLD SPRING FARMS FIELD DAY



June 6, 2023 Attendees dined and learned about saturated buffers at the Cold Spring Pond located east of West Branch. Above, Kent Stuart, describes the saturated buffer they have on their farm.



Ken Fawcett shares about the conservation practices that Fawcett Farms has adopted.

Cover Crop Cost-Share



Already using cover crops?

Want to start using cover crops or plant more acres?

- Receive \$10 / acre on unlimited acres!
- Acres can overlap with any publicly funded cost-share program!

**PROGRAM OPEN UNTIL
DECEMBER 1, 2023**

Lower Cedar Batch and Build Update

39 structures (25 Saturated Buffers and 14 Bioreactors) were approved by landowners and are in the final design phase now.



Upcoming Cover Crop Field Day- Everything Cover Crops!

Date- August 22nd from 5:30pm-7:30pm

Location: Fawcett farms Cold Spring Pond, 459 290th St, West Branch, IA 52358

Agenda

5:30pm- Meal sponsored by Practical Farmers of Iowa

6:00pm- Rainfall Simulator Demo- by J.D Hollingsworth, NRCS Soil Health Specialist

6:30pm-Cover Crop Strategies- Emery Davis, Heartland Coop Conservation Agronomist

7:00pm- Farmer Panel- Ron Schott, Kent Fawcett, and Randy Pedersen will talk about their cover crop strategies and the equipment they use.



Thank you for your partnership in making it possible for us to work with farmers to adopt conservation practices in the Lower Cedar Watershed. We are very excited to see the progress that will happen over the course of this partnership!