



## LOWER CEDAR WATERSHED MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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### Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, November 14, 2023, 6:30 pm Lamp Memorial Community Center, 606 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Durant, Iowa

**Board Members present:** Jon Bell (Cedar County), Bill Waldie (Johnson County), Mike Tertinger (Linn County), Laura Krouse (Linn County SWCD), Ross Paustian (Scott County), Dawn Smith (Durant), Kurt Kirchner (Muscatine County)

**Others Present:** Ray Arp (farmer), Eric Brown (farmer), Kate Giannini (Iowa Flood Center), Dan Gilles (Iowa Flood Center), Jack Tank (farmer), Emery Davis (Heartland Co-op), Jennifer Fencil (ECICOG), Jody Bailey (ECICOG)

1. Call to Order: Meeting called to order by Chairperson Jon Bell at 6:38 pm
2. Roll Call
3. Approve Minutes from August 8, 2023, Board Meeting
  - Motion by Smith, second Kirchner. All Ayes. Motion carried.
4. Treasurer's Report by Waldie – Financial Statement w/ receivable & expenditure balances. Net Balance approximately \$50,414.27. Invoices have been sent out to member organizations who have approved contributions to the LCWMA.
  - Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report by Paustian, seconded by Smith. All Ayes. Motion carried.
5. Lower Cedar Conservation Outreach Update – Davis, Heartland CO-OP, gave an update to the project (report and field day handouts attached). Heartland is accepting cover crop incentive program sign-ups until December 1. To date, 13 farmers have enrolled 6,800 acres in the program. The Batch & Build effort has lined up 39 projects with 12 to 15 farmers to install 25 saturated buffers and 14 bioreactors. The Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship will oversee bid letting for project construction.
6. Indian Creek Soil Health Partnership Update – Fencil, ECICOG, gave an update that the Indian Creek SHP recently hired a new Soil Health Coordinator, Marissa Cartwright, to begin on November 29<sup>th</sup>. The SHP has been extended by 1 year, until August 2024.
7. Letter of Support for City of Durant Funding Application for Stormwater Wetland – Smith and Fencil gave an update on the City of Durant's proposed stormwater wetland. The City requested an updated letter of support from the WMA for a re-do of a proposal they intend to submit to the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship's Water Quality Initiative – Urban Conservation Projects. The City intends to partner with local schools providing opportunities for students in science classes to engage in water quality monitoring at the project site.
  - Motion to approve a new letter of support from the WMA by Waldie, seconded by Kirchner. All ayes. Motion passed.

8. Letter to legislators about supporting WMAs – Fencil presented a draft letter to send legislators in support of soliciting state funding to support Iowa’s WMAs. WMAs across the state are being asked to contact legislators about the need in advance of the 2024 legislative season.
  - Motion to approve the letter of support for WMAs by Krouse, seconded by Smith. All ayes.  
Motion passes.
  
9. Iowa Flood Center Hydro-station Expansion & Hydrologic Modeling Update – Kate Giannini, Daniel Gilles  
Giannini gave an update on Community Project Funding from U.S. Representatives Ashley Hinson and Mariannette Miller-Meeks that will support new hydro-stations in the Maquoketa and Lower Cedar watersheds. The Iowa Flood Center is looking for landowners in these watersheds that are willing to host the hydro-stations. Additionally, Board member Krouse was featured in a water quality art exhibit that the Iowa Flood Center hosted. Gilles gave an update on the flood model the Iowa Flood Center is building for the watershed. The IFC’s flood modeling final report will be provided to the LCWMA in 2024.
  
10. Outreach – None.
  
11. Member Updates & Announcements – Krouse shared that a citizen water quality monitoring group in Mt. Vernon was unable to complete monthly sampling at 5 sites on Abby Creek due to the drought. An attendee suggested participation in cover crop initiative programs would be more successful if the project included batch cover crop seeding with an air seeder and trained operators being made available to producers.

Next Meeting: **February 13, 2023 @ 6:30 PM** (Location TBD)

12. Meeting was adjourned at 7:43 pm.
  - Motion by Waldie, second by Kirchner, All Ayes. Motion carried.