

UIRWMA | Minutes

Meeting date | time 6/15/2017 5:00 PM | Meeting location Decorah City Council Chambers

Attendance: Jack Knight, Dan Byrnes, Andy Carlson,
John Beard, Jan McGovern, Mark Jensen

AGENDA TOPICS

1.) Agenda topic **Call Meeting to Order 5:00 PM** | Presenter **John Beard**

2.) Agenda topic **Approval of Minutes 4/6/17 meeting** | Presenter **John Beard**

Discussion: None

Action Items	Motion	Second
Approve Minutes from 4/6/2017 meeting	Andy Carlson	Dan Byrnes

3.) Agenda topic **Project Coordinator Position** | Presenter **John Beard**

Introduction to Project Coordinator – Matt Frana – Joined UIRWMA from the NRCS out of Mitchell County. Is local to the area. Comes with wide range of relevant experience.

Action Items	Motion	Second
No actionable items		

4.) Agenda topic **Update from Iowa Flood Center** | Presenters **Various**

Discussion:

Iowa Watershed Approach

- Flood Resilience Update – Craig Just, Ashlee Johannes (IFC)
 - o Working on formal watershed plans
 - o Working towards multi-jurisdictional partnership with Luther College
 - o Utilizing various benchmarks to assess flood resilience. Includes things such as financial level of damage, cost to move, ability to move, income levels, etc.
- Iowa BMP Mapping Project – Calvin Wolters (IDNR)
 - o Has mapping/GIS information of current farmer practices on the ground as of 2010.
 - o Illustrates current things such as terraces, waterways, ponds, buffers, contour strips, and more.
 - o Uses LIDAR and aerial photos to identify and place these practices
 - o Establishes baseline for the benefit of future projects and saturation level of practices in a watershed.
 - o <http://www.ris.iastate.edu/ris/projects/conservation-practices>
- Iowa Flood Center Hydrologic Assessment Update – Antonio Arenas (IFC)
 - o Provided assessment information of Ten Mile Creek Watershed as example.
 - o Has completed APCF tool on 26 HUC-12's in Upper Iowa River Watershed
 - o Has streamflow meters placed within watershed

Action Items

Motion

Second

No actionable items

5.) Agenda topic *Northeast Iowa RC&D* | Presenters *Ross Evelsizer and Megan Buckingham*

Discussion:

RC & D is working to develop a full watershed plan for the Upper Iowa River as part of a contract that started 2/1/2017. They have begun to develop a technical committee for the WMA. Presented 4 options for a logo for the WMA. Will be sending them out for further review. Have developed surveys to gauge interest and opinions on the WMA and what goals/objectives people have.

Action Items

Motion

Second

No actionable items

6.) Agenda topic *Going forward* | Presenter *Matt Frana*

Discussion:

- See attached documentation

Action Items

Motion

Second

No actionable items

7.) Agenda topic *Floor Items* | Presenter

Discussion: Larry Weber thanked those who helped contact the legislature during the purposed defunding of the Iowa Flood Center.

Action Items

Motion

Second

No actionable items

8.) Agenda topic *Set Meeting Time/Date* | Presenter *John Beard*

Discussion: Next meeting will be on 8/10/17 at 5:00 pm at the Decorah City Council Chambers

Action Items

Motion

Second

Set next meeting date of 8/10/17 at 5:00pm

Jack Knight

Andy Carlson

WMA Meeting 6/15/17 – Talking Points

Matt Frana

- **Timeline – (see handout)**
- **Criteria for selecting watersheds**
 - 1) Landowner/Producer willingness to participate
 - a. Survey/Public Meeting
 - b. Start talking with landowners and visiting potential sites.
 - 2) High runoff and localized flooding observed during rainstorms
 - a. Property Damage – residential, commercial, and repetitive crop damage.
 - b. Washed out/impassable roadways
 - 3) Iowa Flood Center ACPF tool
 - 4) Watershed projects – past and proposed
 - 5) Headwater regions of the watershed
 - 6) Watershed with intrinsic public value/awareness
 - 7) Professional input
- **Current thoughts on priority watersheds**
 1. Canoe Creek/North Canoe
 2. Ten Mile
 3. Coon Creek
 4. Community of Nordness
 5. Bear Creek
 6. North Bear
 7. Patterson
 8. Portion of Trout Run
- **Public meeting to determine landowner interest**
 - July 20th , 4pm SWCD
- **What components are eligible for cost share?**
 - Livestock watering tanks, fence, pipe? Was used in the in the South Chequest Watershed Project. Coordinator said it was useful to help sell projects.
 - Will be talking to landowner about more than just what's on list...Conservation Planning
- **Locating Potential Project Sites**
- **Landowner Application for program (see example)**
- **Ranking System**
 - Areas of High runoff potential (IFC ACPF tool)
 - Cost of project/Acres treated/water retained – Cost/Benefit of project
 - Practice impact - Practice Value Handout
 - Significant public value/awareness
 - Split watersheds – top of watershed gets more “points” than bottom.

Goals/Timeline

• **Short-term (Summer 2017)**

Finalize Sub-watersheds/landowner contacts/ hash out contracting process

○ **JUNE**

- Meet with partners and interested organizations to get a better understanding of the watershed project and practices that will be utilized.
- Develop Criteria to pick sub-watersheds
- Begin narrowing down watersheds
- Work with RC&D to get post cards/survey sent out

○ **JULY**

- Winn Co Fair (July 10-15)
- Landowner Information Meetings (July 20th) — *Ypm*
 - Inform landowners of program/practices/process
 - Gauge landowner interest in sub-watersheds
- Start making landowner contacts/field visits to better evaluate potential for practices

○ **AUGUST**

- ***Finalize sub-watersheds (Aug WMA meeting)***
 - Use info from IFC data, surveys, public meeting, landowner and professional input
- Determine application/ranking/contracting process - WMA Laundry List (Aug/Sept)

• **Mid-term (Aug-Summer 2018)**

- Get in contact with interested landowners & begin developing list of good project locations.
- General Public Information Meeting (Sept/Oct)
- Begin designs (Fall/Winter 2017)
- Start Projects (Spring/Summer 2018)

• **Long-term (Summer 2018-2021)**

- Continue Projects
- Work with RC&D to finalize Upper Iowa Watershed Management Plan
- Be looking for grant opportunities to assist with current funds, extend project and/or start new project area.

Professional Input Notes

Notes from County Engineer - Lee Bjerke (6/1/17)

- **CANOE CREEK!** Issues with flooding and roads washing
- Redoing Lincoln Highway/Stone Hill rd (**Nordness township**)
 - Potential for road structure
- Will be redoing Bluffton Rd in 2021
- Will be making a list of potential project locations or areas where road washes.

Notes from Allamakee County NRCS/SWCD meeting 6/6/17

- 1) Coon Creek – Top Priority
 - More Willing Land-owners – A lot of crop ground at the top of the watershed
- 2) Patterson
 - Probably has more issues when flooding, but more absentee landowners
 - Has more streambank issues
 - More pasture around streams
- 3) Bear
 - Bottom of watershed, may not have a lot of landowner interest

Notes from meeting with DNR Fisheries – 6/14/17

Ranked by fisheries:

Close tie between Canoe and Nordness/Trout Run. Canoe for trout habitat, Nordness/Trout Run for flooding.

- 1) Canoe
 - Has native remnant Brook trout
 - Working surveying streams in area for other native populations
 - Has a lot of flooding issues
- 2) Nordness/Trout Creek
 - Directly affects hatchery production capabilities.
 - Heavy rains affect spring – “dirty” water events more frequent
 - i. Aug 2016 flood event – silt trap pics
 - ii. Without Army Reserve 8-10K to clean out
 - High on list of angler trips to trout streams - 9/96 in 2011
 - Affects economy – people won't visit/fish if water is dirty flooded
 - Good area for educational opportunities
 - i. In process of working with RC&D to make educational signs to inform about watersheds and karst
 - Recent flooding history – large contributor to Freeport flood in 2016

WMA Practices – from IWA PC Guide

All Potential Practices - Standards and Statements of Work

- 327 Conservation Cover - **For use in conjunction of other practices**
- 656 Constructed Wetland
- 342 Critical Area Planting - **For use in conjunction of other practices**
- 605 Denitrifying Bioreactor
- 382 **Fence - For use in conjunction of other practices**
- 393 Filter Strip
- 410 Grade Stabilization Structure
- 516 **Livestock Pipeline - For use in conjunction of other practices**
- 378 Pond
- 604 Saturated Buffer
- 600 Terrace
- 620 Underground Outlet - **For use in conjunction of other practices**
- 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin
- 614 **Watering Facility – For use in conjunction of other practices. farm pond/detention basin**
- 658 Wetland Creation
- 657 Wetland Enhancement

Primary Promoted Practices Funded By Project – See Practice and Values Handout

- 1) 378 - Farm Pond
- 2) 658 - Wetland Creation
- 3) 656 - Constructed Wetland
- 4) 657 - Wetland Enhancement
- 5) 638 - Water and Sediment Control Basin
- 6) 410 - Grade Stabilization Structure

Secondary Practices – Try to find other funding source OR allow use if using a Primary Practice too?

- 1) 393 - Filter Strip
- 2) 600 - Terrace
- 3) 604 - Saturated Buffer
- 4) 605 - Denitrifying Bioreactor

Potential Practices to Add??

- 5) 332 – Contour Buffers (STRIPS)
- 6) 390 – Riparian Buffer

WMA PRACTICE LIST - DESCRIPTION AND BENEFITS

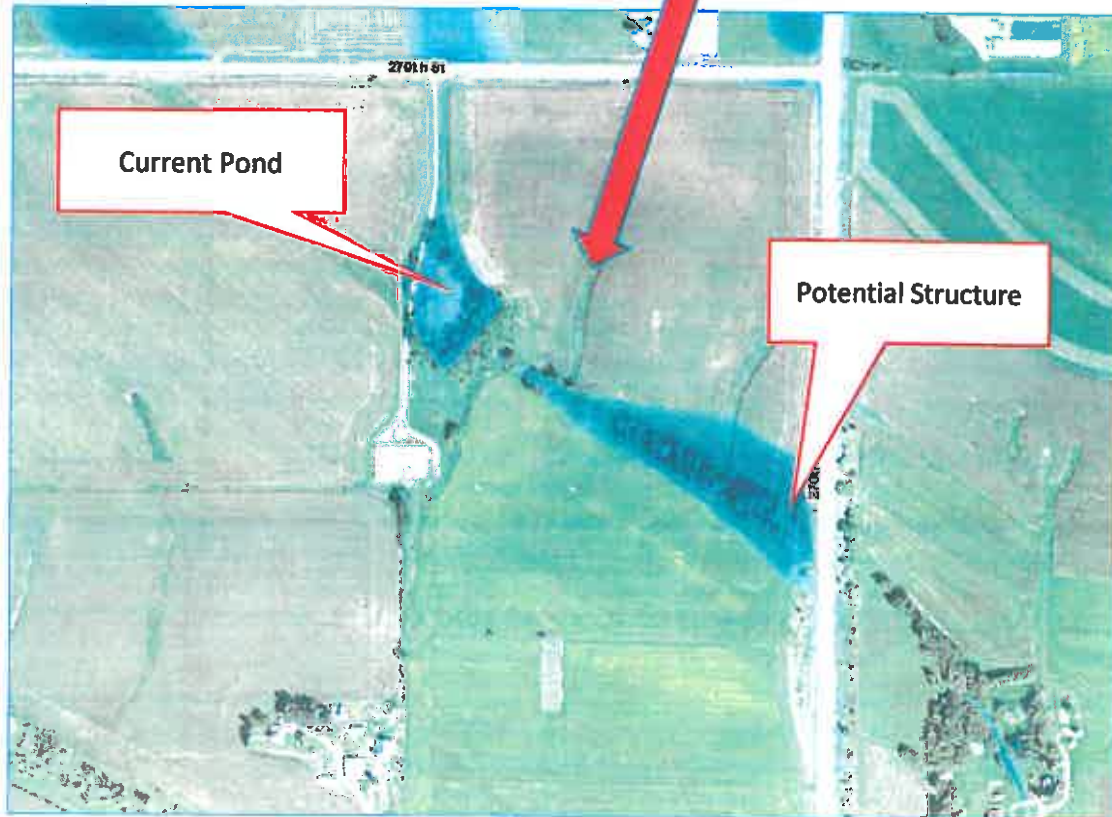
the practices available to the WMAs and producers. A conservative lifespan of 20 years is assumed for each structure/project. Most of the noted benefits are based on data from the Iowa Nutrient Reduction Strategy (SF = streamflow reduction; WQ = water quality improvement). Benefits may vary based on size and landform. (Information taken from HUD National Disaster Resilience Competition application 2015)

Primary Target Practices Funded by Project			
Practices	Description	SF % Reduction	WQ % Improvement
Storm Water Retention Basin RCS Practice Code 638	Capture and detain water during a precipitation event, lessening downstream flooding. They remain dry between flood events. A storm water detention basin's construction is based on expected 10 or 20 year precipitation events for the area.	30	20
Storm Ponds RCS Practice code 378	Effectively collect and hold surface flow, allow particles (soil) to settle, and remove nutrients. They are generally 0.25–20 acres and may be embankment ponds (a dammed stream) or excavation (digging out the pond or the surrounding area to form levees). Pond construction will be based on NRCS construction standards.	10-30	30-70
Wetland Construction RCS Practice Code 657	Slows down and filters precipitation runoff, allowing sediment and nutrients to settle out before reaching lakes, rivers, streams, and aquifers. This lowers downstream flood peaks, reduces erosion, and improves water quality. Wetlands may be restored through a variety of techniques (excavation, surface drain removal, low embankments, etc.) to restore the original hydrology.	10-20	52-70
Sediment Detention Basins RCS Practice Code 350	Capture and detain sediment-laden runoff long enough for the sediment to settle out. Building techniques and benefits are similar to ponds. Unlike ponds, they are dry between precipitation events. Basin construction will be based on NRCS construction standards.	5	85
Floodplain Restoration	Restores flood-prone land to its original function—storing flood waters. Floodplain restoration restores, protects, maintains, and enhances the function of floodplains, while conserving natural values such as fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, flood water retention, and groundwater recharge. It typically involves removal of levees and ceasing agricultural practices in portions of the floodplain.	20	85
Oxbow Restoration	Rebuilds disconnected oxbow ponds in the floodplain. Oxbows provide floodwater storage, nutrient processing, and shallow water habitat for wildlife.	N/A	56

Watershed Delineation Tool - Depthgrid



Zoomed in



Application for Financial/Technical Assistance

Upper Iowa Watershed Project
Winneshiek County Soil and Water Conservation District
Winneshiek County Board of Supervisors

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____

Practice: _____

Location: Section _____ T _____ R _____

I hereby request financial assistance from the **Winneshiek County SWCD** in planning and applying soil and water conservation practices on my land. I hereby grant to the members of the **Winneshiek County SWCD** or their designated representatives the right of ingress and egress to my land for the purpose of conducting surveys, planning or inspecting conservation works of improvement during the period this agreement is in force. Conservation practices will have a maintenance agreement of 20 years. Copies of project designs and plans will be provided to the Iowa Flood Center as part as their Iowa Watershed Approach study, these designs will be used in computer models to study the impact of structures on flood reduction. This agreement will remain in effect until mutually terminated or by either party giving thirty (30) days written notice.

If you agree to the above, you may sign here:

Name: _____

Date: _____