

Draft Minutes
Upper Cedar Watershed Management Improvement Authority
June 16, 2015, 2015 Regular Meeting, 6:00PM
Charles City Public Library, Zastrow Room

Chair Sherm Lundy called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm. Self-introductions were made, and attendees are included on the sign-in sheet attached hereto and made a part hereof, including board members. A quorum was confirmed.

AGENDA: Rick Bodensteiner moved and Stan Walk seconded of the agenda. Motion Carried.

MINUTES: John Miller moved and Randy Miller seconded approval of the 3/24/15 minutes. Motion Carried.

RCPP Pre-application: Sherm Lundy reviewed the opportunity to apply for funding from the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). This funding opportunity is cyclic. Cedar Rapids was recently successful in an application effort. Projects relate to flooding, water quality, and soil restoration. Cities, counties and SWCD's all participated. Jim Erb is willing to take the lead in coordinating input. Mary Beth Stevenson from the DNR reviewed the pre-application, which is limited to 5-7 pages. Local match would need to be identified but current projects could be leveraged. Larry Weber from the IIHR/Iowa Flood Center suggested that the hydrologic work plan from Phase I of the watershed plan would inform potential project opportunities. The Iowa Soybean Association would be involved in the application proposal. A key is to get an invitation to submit a full proposal; then the proposed project(s) could be tweaked. Watershed Management Authorities are most suitable to respond on short notice. Rock Creek could make the most sense. Because RCPP is an NRCS (federal) program, most federal grant dollars won't work for local match. Sherm mentioned that the grant allows hiring boots on the ground, a real need in the UCWMIA region. CREP wetland cost share can become part of the match, and the ISU Research Farm is another match opportunity.

Upon motion by John Miller, seconded by Kip Ladage to pursue the pre-application, motion carried. Zoll asked for clarification on the match, and was satisfied that no funding would or could be pledged from local governments without approval from their board or council. A conference call will be held at 2 PM Thursday; the Iowa Flood Center will provide a dial-in number. Contact Mary Beth Stevenson if interested in participating.

Board Reappointments: The current list of UCWMIA board members was reviewed, with discussion of the need for reappointments from some entities.

Beaver Creek Project Update: Mark Kuhn reported that there are six separate projects underway in Floyd and Chickasaw Counties. Multiple meetings have occurred. Chris Diggins from NIACOG has worked through facets of the projects, including easement agreements. Landowners met today, and once letters are returned, checks will be cut. Six applicants for project implementation are expected. Dennis Sande commented that it helped the appraiser was known to applicants. Mark Kuhn said ingress and egress was an issue because crops could be affected. Assuming letters of application are received, the next step will be to proceed to public bids. Funds are to be expended by October, but they are working on extending this deadline. It has helped that the engineer is the same for both counties, and the elected officials and attorney work well together. Rick Bodensteiner said the wetlands involved, and working with the Army Corps of Engineers, were issues. It might be better in the future to look for projects without wetlands involved.

Breanna Zimmerman, Iowa Flood Center: Breanna has replaced Sara Steussy with the Iowa Flood Center. Sherm Lundy welcomed Breanna and said the UCWMIA appreciates the Iowa Flood Center partnership.

TNC Project Update: Jim Erb said The Nature Conservancy (TNC) project model will be discussed on 6/23/15. They will consider cross pollination between the TNC and UCWMIA plans. This could possibly provide leverage for the RCPP application. The City of Charles City remains interested in working with rural areas for water quality mitigation as a more effective approach than investing huge funds for water treatment facilities.

Waters of the US: Sherm Lundy reported that the Waters of the US (WOTUS) ruling will impact the UCWMIA region as rulemaking begins.

Cedar River Watershed coalition: Mary Beth Stevenson reported that 75 people attended a recent conference, including many unfamiliar faces which is good. The next meeting will be held Friday, 11/13/15.

Watershed Updates: Kip Ladage said he's involved in the Wapsi Watershed Management Authority, and sees how fortunate the UCWMIA has been to get started early as the Wapsi WMA does not currently have funds to get them going.

Prospective Funding Discussion: Larry Weber reported the Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management, and the Iowa Flood Center, are collaborating on a proposal to HUD for a portion of \$1 B in funds to look at watershed resiliency; \$800 M is available outside of New York. They plan to target Dubuque, Cedar Rapids and the Middle Cedar for a \$50 M request; they hope to make the case that the Middle Cedar is impacted by the Upper Cedar. John Miller warned that FEMA and HUD can have differing expectations.

Sherm Lundy said that WMA's have been formed without ongoing funding to keep momentum moving forward, so it's a good idea to stay in touch with legislators about the funding need. Monitoring funds have been slashed.

Next Meetings: The next quarterly meeting will be held 9/15/15, and the Charles City library location will be requested. The December meeting has tentatively been set for the second Tuesday, 12/8/15.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Susan Judkins for Karen Damjanovich

UCWMIA Sign In 6-16-15

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Time</u>
Rick Holtzhaus	Chickasaw Co BOS	5:45
Staci Schotte	Chickasaw Co.	5:45
STAN WALK	MITCHELL PO BOS	5:45
Rick Bodensteiner	Osage	5:45
Randy Miller	Chickasaw commissioner	5:46
John M. Her	Black Hawk BOS	5:46
Joel Winkler	City of Denver	5:46
Sherman Lundy	B. H. City S+W Dist	5:46
Tim Erb	City of Charles City	5:47
Mark Kuhn	Floyd Co BOS	
hip L. Sage	Bremer/Waverly/Foxer SWID	
Dennis Carney	Floyd SWID 1698 9th St SW Mason City, IA 50401 dacarney27@gmail.com	5:50
Tim Zoll	Chickasaw	5:48
Larry Weber	Iowa Flood Center	5:50
Denise Sande	NRCS	5:10
Jim Holz	MSA	5:31
Mary Beth Swanson	DNR	
Breanna Zimmerman	IFC	5:31
Susan Jenkins	KSWW	5:30