

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED

Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority Board Meeting Minutes

April 17th, 2017
2:00 PM

Clive Aquatic Center
1801 NW 114th Street, Clive, Iowa

Attendees:

WMA Memebers-

Rudy Koester, City of Waukee
Susan Judkins, City of Clive
Darren Fife, City of Windsor Heights
Kieth Hubbard, City of Des Moines
Jane Clark, Polk SWCD
Dave Russell, City of Urbandale
Doug Stone, City of Windsor Heights
Doug Ollendike, City of Clive
David Wilwerding, City of Johnston
Brandt Williamson, City of Grimes
Bob Rice, Polk County
John Schultz, Dallas SWCD

Others-

Amanda Brown, Polk SWCD
Rick Robinson, Iowa Farm Bureau
Cameron Stufflebeam, Polk Co
Emergency Management
Allen Bonini, DNR
Kyle Ament, DNR
Rachel Conrad, City of Clive
Adam Fendrick, PCCB
John Swanson, Polk SWCD
Jonathan Gano, City of Des Moines
Kyle Riley, HR Green/Polk SWCD
Teva Dawson, MPO
Jennifer Welch, Polk SWCD
Clifford Leonard

1. Call meeting to order

Meeting was called to order at 2:03pm by Susan Judkins and introductions were given

2. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was approved. 1st-Bob Rice, 2nd-Dave Russell

3. Approval of the past minutes

Prior Minutes were approved. 1st-Darren Fife, 2nd- Brandt Williamson

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED



5. Presentation on Walnut Creek Salinity Project

Students from Drake University gave a brief presentation on a project they are working on in Walnut Creek. They have placed sensors out in the creek to test levels of salt in the water. Currently, the data is incomplete but the project will continue through the next three years. They are hoping to get an idea on how much road salt is entering Walnut Creek throughout the year. The slides from their presentation are attached.

6. Implementation Update

John Swanson let the group know that the Iowa Flood Center has chosen the Walnut Creek watershed as a priority for completing new flood inundation maps. He told the group about the RCPP launch event that was held for the Walnut Creek watershed in February. This event was an invite only event geared at getting rural landowners and certain city staff/developers together in order to discuss working together in the watershed. John said there was a great turnout and the event went very well. John mentioned that he is currently working with the two jurisdictions who received the urban WQI grant on getting the projects implemented. The city of Windsor Heights was selected to create a demonstration park at Colby Park along Walnut Creek. The cities of Urbandale and Clive, along with the Nature Conservancy, were selected to restore some oxbows on city property. Doug Ollendike said the city will have some extra dirt after restoring their oxbows if anyone is interested.

John Swanson presented to the group some options for a watershed wide monitoring plan. (See attached) John elaborated on a few of the options a little more. He said option one would expand upon Polk County Conservation Board's (PCCB) water monitoring effort they already have in place. This would involve city staff going out every two weeks at the same time and using IOWATER sample kits to test the water. PCCB would provide the testing materials and training. John said that the group would essentially be filling in the gaps in the areas where PCCB is not currently monitoring. He said the data would then be published in a yearly report by PCCB. He passed around this year's example. Darren asked if PCCB would be willing to provide this even in the areas of Dallas County. John said he would look into this, but it may also be possible to reach out to Dallas County Conservation Board and see if they are interested. Darren stated that the Walnut Creek Watershed Coalition may be willing to volunteer some of their time to fill in these gaps.

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED

Option 2 would involve a jurisdiction essentially hiring the State Hygienic Lab to take samples at certain sites during the year. The lab would then publish a yearly report for the jurisdiction. The city of Johnston currently does this and using the information to determine effectiveness of their practices they are installing.

Option 3 is the most expensive option and would require installing real time stream monitors. We would pay the Iowa Flood Center to be in charge of these and house the data. John said if we could find funding to pay for these, it would be the best option because it would get us real time data. It could also bring in interest from universities and others who may be looking to do research.

John told the group that the Mud/Camp/Spring WMA has decided to go with option 1 and look into options 2 and 3 in the future. The group thought they would like to go this route as well. John said he would meet with PCCB to determine where the gaps were and then work with the jurisdictions with these sites. Teva Dawson brought up that Des Moines Waterworks and Iowa Soybean Association is also doing monitoring in these areas and we should try and encompass what they are already doing. She said it would be nice to have this data in a central location. Doug Ollendike brought up that we need to start monitoring the developing and developed areas (sub watersheds) very soon before we start doing projects so we can measure success. John said he is doing to be speaking with the State Hygienic Lab to determine costs for doing this.

Amanda Brown told the group that she has been working on locating sites for regional detention in the rural areas of the watershed. She also mentioned that there will be two saturated buffers installed this fall. She will have more information at the July meeting.

7. Council of the WMAs Update

Teva Dawson stated that the North and Middle Raccoon WMAs were still working towards formation. She also stated that the next Council of the WMA meeting will be on May 8th at 2pm at the MPO. She said that while usually only executive board members are asked to attend, anyone is encouraged to come if they would like. Teva mentioned that the Iowa Flood Center may be at the coming meeting. Bob Rice said it would be a good idea to start inviting legislators to this meeting/others.

Teva updated the group on how the Regional Water Trails Plan was going. They are kicking off the engineering/feasibility stage and plan to have that completed by the end of the year. She said they will also be trying to integrate water monitoring to the different access/recreational areas along Walnut Creek, as well as the others. If

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED

jurisdictions have specific locations/ideas they would like to have integrated into the water trails plan they should contact Teva.

Teva also updated the group on how the stormwater ordinance policy work was going. She stated that the MPO is working on forming a planning subcommittee in the near future. There has been some hesitation from some communities who think they may not be able to pass what the city of Clive recently passed as their ordinance. Dave Russell asked what the biggest sticking points were. Teva said the main one was the topsoil requirements. Doug Ollendike said as they have begun implementing the city of Clive's new ordinance the biggest thing they have ran into is a knowledge gap. He mentioned that there will be a training coming up on May 31st through the Stormwater Education Partnership on how to tackle this hurdle. Amanda Brown said she would send more information out to the group once it was available.

8. Other Comments/Discussion

Susan Judkins mentioned an article she saw in the Cedar Rapids Gazette over the weekend about the Iowa Flood Center. She stated while no action has officially been taken, water quality funding will be seeing some sort of cut with the new budgets. Allen Bonini said there will also likely be a federal funding cut which many affect DNR 319 as well as other programs. Susan mentioned the dam mitigation funds are being cut which may affect the water trails plan.

Susan also mentioned that they are still working on the formation of a statewide WMA committee. The Iowa Water Center at Iowa State University is proposed to take the lead on this.

Kyle Ament said the next North Raccoon WMA meeting will be held on May 19th at 9:00am in Lake City. He will send more information out to the group.

9. Next Meeting; July 17th, 2017 at 2:00pm

This meeting location is TBD. Any cities interested in hosting should contact Amanda Brown.

10. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:11pm by Susan Judkins