

# WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED

## Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority Board Meeting

January 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2017

1:00 PM

Giovanetti Shelter-Walker Johnston Park  
8900 Douglas Ave, Urbandale, Iowa

### Attendees:

#### WMA Memebers-

Brad Deets, City of Waukee  
Susan Judkins, City of Clive  
Darren Fife, City of Windsor Heights  
Dan Pritchard, City of Des Moines  
Dave Russell, City of Urbandale  
Ben McAlister, City of West Des Moines  
Doug Ollendike, City of Clive  
David Wilwerding, City of Johnston  
Steve Soupir, City of Grimes  
Bob Rice, Polk County  
John Schultz, Dallas SWCD  
Dave McKay, City of Urbandale  
Doug Stone, City of Windsor Heights  
Jennifer Welch, Polk SWCD

#### Others-

Amanda Brown, Polk SWCD  
Tyler Stubbs, Iowa DNR  
Jim Jordahl, IAWA  
Allen Bonini, DNR  
Kyle Ament, DNR  
Rachel Conrad, City of Clive  
Mike Murphy  
Jeff Philips, Barker and Lemar  
Jonathan Gano, City of Des Moines  
Kyle Riley, HR Green/Polk SWCD  
Teva Dawson, MPO  
John Swanson, Polk SWCD  
Jennifer Terry, DMWW  
Adam Fendrick, PCCB  
Staci Williams, American Rivers  
Matt Carlile  
Doug Sheeley, PCCB  
Pat Boddy, RDG  
Dave DeGeus, TNC

1. Call meeting to order  
*Meeting was called to order at 1:02pm by Susan Judkins*
2. Introductions
3. Approval of the agenda  
*Agenda was approved. 1<sup>st</sup>-Dave Russell, 2<sup>nd</sup>-Ben McAlister*
4. Approval of the past minutes  
*Prior Minutes were approved. 1<sup>st</sup>-Dave Russell, 2<sup>nd</sup>- Bob Rice*
5. Public Comment  
*There was no public comment*
6. Election of 2017 Executive Committee

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*Susan Judkins asked if there were any nominations and how the board would like to proceed with elections for the 2017 executive committee. The current roles are as follows; Chair: Susan Judkins, Vice Chair: Bob Rice, Secretary: Jane Clark, Treasurer: David Russell, Past Chair: Ben McAlister. According to the bylaws, each member can serve in their role for 2 years maximum. The current chair, vice chair, and past chair have only been serving for one year. The current treasurer and secretary have been serving for 2 years and need to be re-elected.*

*Bob Rice made a motion to keep the executive board the same and move Jane Clark to Treasurer and David Russell to Secretary due to the potential money that may be coming to the WMAs. It may be beneficial to keep the committee the same since they have experience working together to make decisions on upcoming funding opportunities. Doug Ollendike seconded this motion. Susan opened the motion for discussion.*

*Dave Russell stated that he did not have to stay on the committee if there were others who were interested in serving in one of the positions. Darren Fife and Brad Deets both said they would be interested in a position. Due to this, the first motion on the table was withdrawn.*

*Bob Rice made another motion to have Darren Fife become secretary and Brad Deets serve as Treasurer. The other positions would remain as is. Doug Ollendike seconded this motion. The board was in agreeance and the motion passed.*

**2017 Executive Committee:**

*Chair: Susan Judkins - Clive*

*Vice Chair: Bob Rice – Polk County*

*Secretary: Darren Fife – Windsor Heights*

*Treasurer: Brad Deets - Waukee*

*Past Chair: Ben McAlister – West Des Moines*

7. Implementation Update

*Jennifer Welch updated the group on the Urban WQI Application that was due in December. First round selections have been made. There were 34 total applications and 14 of them got selected to move on to the second round. 6 out of the 14 were in the metro area with 2 being in the Walnut Creek Watershed. The two within Walnut Creek WMA were submitted by Windsor Heights and The Nature Conservancy. John Swanson gave a brief overview about both of these projects. The Windsor Heights project is located at Colby Park and would create a demonstration park with various urban conservation practices that residents/cities would be able to come see. The*

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*Nature Conservancy application is for the construction of oxbows located in Urbandale and Clive.*

*John updated the group on which jurisdictions have officially adopted the management plan. They include: Grimes, Johnston, Des Moines, Windsor Heights, Clive, Waukee, Dallas SWCD, and Polk SWCD. The adoption of the plan is on the Polk County supervisors agenda for February.*

*John stated he is continuing to work on the monitoring program for the watershed. He will be working with various partners to install 10 of the monitoring signs, seen at previous meetings, throughout the metro on Earth Day. He also plans on coming to the next meeting with options and associated costs for water monitoring if the cities are interested in developing their own program. John will be working with other Polk SWCD staff to do bacteria monitoring within the jurisdictions since this is a large pollutant identified in the plan.*

*John also mentioned a stream stabilization that was completed by the city of Des Moines. Dan Pritchard from the city said this project was located along Walnut Creek just downstream of Center Street. He also stated that there are plans to do another stabilization near North Valley Drive.*

*Amanda Brown said she will be focusing on finding areas in the agriculture areas for regional water management. These would include wetlands and water retention structures which would benefit the cities by slowing down the water and reducing floods. She is also working with two landowners to install saturated buffers and looking to do site investigations on a few oxbow locations. Amanda and other Polk SWCD staff will be working with Jim Jordahl and IAWA to host an event at the end of February. Jim told the group this event will have an urban and rural component and will focus on trying to ramp up implementation efforts in the watershed. The event will be held February 28<sup>th</sup>. Susan Judkins let the group know that this would be an invite only event mainly for elected officials and farmers.*

*John mentioned that there is a statewide WMA meeting in Dubuque, Iowa on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Susan would be attending, but others are welcome to join. There will be a session in the morning of WMA chairs from around the state that will be geared towards forming a statewide WMA board that could make decisions for the WMAs. There is also a watershed conference following the WMA meetings on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. For more information contact John.*

## 8. Regional Stormwater Policy Update

*Teva Dawson said that at the Council of WMA meeting updates to current stormwater policies was decided to be the policy focus for the first year. At this*

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*meeting it was brought up that using the Capitol Crossroads code consortium could be an avenue to accomplish a regional stormwater policy update.*

a. Code consortium

*Jonathan Gano spoke about how the code consortium allows different departments within each jurisdiction to come together and draft unified codes and policies for the metro area. This year the divisions selected to participate are the public works and planning departments. The group takes suggestions for what policy/code they should focus on for the year. Jonathan said he would like to bring the idea of creating a unified stormwater policy template that all cities could adopt and make their own. Susan said this avenue could be a way to bypass some of the politics involved. Jonathan used the example of the unified metro fire code update that used this process.*

*Doug Ollendike made a motion to support Jonathan Gano suggesting that the code consortium focus on stormwater policy changes as their next topic. Brad Deets seconded the motion; motion passed.*

*Teva said the MPO will be staying involved and may work on the floodplain policy in conjunction with the stormwater work that the code consortium would potentially work on.*

*Teva let the group know that the next Council of WMA meeting would be February 13<sup>th</sup> and if anyone had any topic ideas to let her know. Bob Rice would like to see the Army Corps be invited due to the fact that our WMA watersheds ultimately run into their Red Rock reservoir. Teva also said that she has invited the recently formed Beaver Creek WMA executive committee to the council meetings.*

*Susan Judkins reminded the group that it would be a good idea to join with the North Raccoon WMA which is working to form. The North Raccoon is a HUC 8 watershed with Walnut Creek watershed nested as a HUC 10 within its boundaries. Due to the North Raccoon receiving some HUD money, it would be a good idea for Walnut members to stay involved.*

9. Greater Des Moines Water Trails Update

*Teva Dawson said that the water trails plan was approved at the November MPO meeting. The plan will now be entering phase one which includes hiring engineers to prepare cost estimates, complete ground truthing and other various tasks. Parts of phase one should be completed by the end of 2017. Two focuses within the Walnut Creek watershed for phase one include canoe access points at Clive Aquatic Center and Colby Park.*

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## 10. The Nature Conservancy Update

*Dave DeGeus from The Nature Conservancy said their agency was very interested in working in the Walnut Creek watershed due to its urban/rural connection and the findings of the Chestnut Lamprey species. They plan on assisting where they can. Their main focus is on wildlife habitat but have also recently gained a water quality focus. They are working with John Swanson on some oxbow restorations within the watershed and would like to continue this work. They are also looking for other projects within the watershed, especially wetlands. If cities are interested or know of projects they can contact John Swanson. Dave also mentioned that they are leading the charge for IWILL.*

## 11. Urban Fisheries

*Tyler Stubbs said he recently got hired by the DNR as their urban fisheries biologist. He stated that he is a resource for cities who would like to increase their fishing recreation potential. They are currently working on a project to make retention basins fishable and are looking for locations.*

## 12. Other Comments/Discussion

*Bob Rice stated that he received a 28E agreement from the North Raccoon WMA and wanted to know if signing it would be a problem because the Walnut Creek WMA is located within the watershed boundary.*

*Kyle Ament said this would not be a problem and that he would be available to attend board meetings to help explain why it may be beneficial for jurisdictions to sign onto the North Raccoon WMA. Allen Bonini also echoed this statement and said he would be available if Kyle is not. Allen said the WMAs have been a benefit because they are creating an urban/rural connection that wasn't seen before. Doug Ollendike asked how long it may take for the North Raccoon to form. Kyle said hopefully by the end of the summer, but it depends.*

*Bob Rice brought up that we will have to keep drainage districts in mind as we move forward in the rural areas.*

## 13. Next Meeting; April 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

*This meeting location is TBD. Any cities interested in hosting should contact Amanda Brown. The time will be moved back to 2pm.*

## 14. Adjourn

*Meeting was adjourned at 2:20pm by Susan Judkins*