

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED

Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority Board Meeting Minutes

July 17th, 2017
2:00 PM

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

Attendees:

WMA Memebers-

Doug Sheeley, Polk County Conservation Board
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
Ben McAlister, City of West Des Moines
Bob Rice, Polk County
John Schultz, Dallas SWCD
Steve Soupir, City of Grimes

Others-

Amanda Brown, Polk SWCD
Melissa Miller, Iowa Water Center
Cameron Stufflebeam, Polk Co
Emergency Management
Roger Wolf, ISA
Kyle Ament, DNR
Rachel Conrad, City of Clive
Adam Fendrick, PCCB
John Swanson, Polk SWCD
Mike Murphy, Guest
Kyle Riley, HR Green/Polk SWCD
Teva Dawson, MPO
Jennifer Welch, Polk SWCD
Kristin Brostrom, City of Urbandale
Jennifer Terry, DMWW
Jim Marwedel, Iowa HSEMD
Evan Del Val, ISG
Lori Howe, Dallas SWCD
Bethany Wilcoxon, Capital Crossroads
Charles Ikenberry, FYRA Engineering
Sue Snyder, NRCS
Mark Hansen, Resident
Clifford Leonard

1. Call meeting to order

Meeting was called to order at 2:00pm by Susan Judkins and introductions were given

2. Approval of the agenda

Agenda was approved. 1st-Bob Rice, 2nd-Darren Fife

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3. Approval of the past minutes

Prior Minutes were approved. 1st-John Schultz, 2nd- Dave Wilwerding

4. Statewide WMA Formation

Melissa Miller from the Iowa Water Center gave a brief background of what she does and what the goals of the Iowa Water Center are in WMA work. She stated that the need for a statewide WMA formation arose out of a legislative event held at the MPO in January. Many people at the event stated that there currently was not an avenue for WMAs across Iowa to work together towards legislative outreach and utilize each other to reach common goals. Miller said that the group will be called WMAs of Iowa and they are looking to have participation from each WMA throughout Iowa. They are also looking for nominations from each WMA to serve on the executive board. This will include staggered 2-3 year terms and will require quarterly meeting attendance. Individuals will have the option to call in if they cannot make it to the meeting in person and or send an alternate that the Walnut Creek WMA will select. Once formed, this board will come up with bi-laws for the WMAs of Iowa and decide how the group plans on moving forward.

Susan Judkins stated that just because they are only including WMA members on the board of the WMAs of Iowa, others are still invited to participate and attend the meetings. Judkins also said that even though Walnut Creek WMA is nestled within the larger North Raccoon WMA, they still have the option to have individual representation.

Bob Rice stated that the WMAs of Iowa board needs to make it clear in the bi-laws that the representatives from each WMA are acting on behalf of their WMA at the meetings, not their individual city. He also said that there is a definite need for a group like this because all WMAs should have a say in how we move forward on collective state issues.

Judkins entertained a motion for the Walnut Creek WMA to participate and show support for the WMAs of Iowa. Bob Rice moved the motion and Darren Fife seconded it. Motion was passed.

Judkins and Fife volunteered themselves to be representatives for the Walnut Creek WMA at the WMAs of Iowa. The Polk SWCD will send out an email to the group asking

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them to vote on who they would like to be the primary representative and the secondary representative between Fife and Judkins.

5. Implementation Update

John Swanson updated the group on projects he has been working on in the Walnut Creek Watershed. He stated that The Nature Conservancy is looking for more projects within the Walnut Creek Watershed. They are looking for projects focused on water quality/flood reduction and wildlife habitat. If cities have potential projects they should let John know. Swanson also said he has been working with Darren Fife on planning for the Walnut Creek Watershed Festival this fall.

Darren Fife stated that the festival will be a 2 day event this year and will be held on October 6th and 7th. Friday the 6th will be in Clive and will include a river clean up as well as activities and food during the evening. Saturday the 7th will be at Colby Park in Windsor Heights. There will also be a clean-up in the morning and activities in the evening (including fireworks). Fife said they recent water quality practices installed at Colby Park through the Water Quality Initiative Grant will be highlighted showing residents what they can do on their own properties.

Swanson stated he will be contacting communities within the developed sub-watershed to follow up on the projects within this area that are listed in the management plan. He spoke about how Polk SWCD will be doing an annual review late August/early September that highlights what has been accomplished throughout the first year of implementation. All members will be invited to attend.

a. Grant Opportunities

Swanson went over the grant opportunities coming up (see attached). He asked cities to come to him with ideas they may have for this grant opportunities. He particularly highlighted the new FEMA grant that can provide 75% cost share for certain projects. This projects have to be listed in their hazard mitigation plan already before applying for funds. Swanson said he will be attempting to reach out to Dallas County since they are currently updating their mitigation plan with FEMA to see if they would like to add potential projects in. This would qualify them for some funding.

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Amanda Brown gave an overview on what has been going in the agricultural areas of the watershed. She stated that there will be a bioreactor and saturated buffer installed this fall. She will let the group know the dates on these. She also spoke about a cover crop initiative involving the use of a Hagie highboy interseeder. This is a newer method to seed cover crops that may get new users on board.

6. Coordinator Contract Discussion

Bob Rice gave an overview on how the contract hiring Polk SWCD to lead implementation in the watershed came about a year ago. He stated that usually the chair does most of the work to keep the WMA running and that instead Polk SWCD has been contracted to do the administration, coordination...etc. Polk SWCD was chosen because they are not a political entity and already do this work in other watersheds. Polk SWCD has also decided to contract with MPO separately to carry out the policy work. Rice said that the current agreement is up in September and we would like to extend to a three year contract. The new agreement would work the same way as the current one with a few minor changes. John Swanson stated that these changes include administrative work for the Beaver Creek WMA and contracting out for website design and maintenance. Because of this added work, the monetary ask has increased a little. He also stated that even with the added work load, help to each jurisdiction would not be negatively affected. Even though a three year period is proposed, the agreement would be evaluated each year in case needs/concerns arise.

Susan Judkins asked if this agreement would include the North and Middle River WMAs. Swanson stated that currently that is not planned due to limited Polk SWCD staff and resources. Kyle Riley also reiterated this statement saying that the Polk SWCD commissioners have decided North and Middle is too large for their current staff to handle.

Darren Fife stated that he was impressed with the work Polk SWCD has done throughout the past year. Susan Judkins asked each jurisdiction to speak to their individual councils about the new agreement and the executive committee would hold a special meeting before the next quarterly meeting if needed.

7. Council of the WMAs update

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In the interest of time, Susan Judkins gave a brief update on the Council of the WMAs. The group is still meeting, with the next meeting being held on August 14th at 2pm at the MPO

8. Army Corps Project Discussion

Doug Ollendike stated that the city of Clive has been in conversations with federal groups such as FEMA and the army corps about applying for some funds through the Iowa Silver Jackets program. The Silver Jackets are a collection of many federal organizations. These conversation arose due to the City of Clive's consistent flooding issues and the recent update to their FEMA maps. The Silver Jackets have a competitive grant program that the City of Clive has submitted a proposal for. Ollendike said that even though the City of Clive submitted the grant, he would like the work to be watershed wide and included that thought process in the proposal. The proposal was written asking for funds to have the Army Corps look at current models and do some scenario based modeling (future planning) for the watershed. Ollendike also stated that the funds would be utilized to determine how much money or damage potential are we looking at in flood events and what the watershed needs to do upstream to not make flooding worse. Ollendike is looking to all jurisdictions will be in participation if this grant is funded.

9. North Raccoon WMA Update

Susan Judkins stated that we have the current chair of the North Raccoon WMA in attendance; Mark Hansen from Dallas County. She asked him to update the group.

Mark began by stating that he had made a motion for Dallas County to support the Walnut WMA when it first came to formation, but it did not have support from other supervisors. He said that since the Walnut Creek WMA is a part of the North Raccoon WMA, communication will be important.

Hanson inquired with Polk SWCD who their bosses were. John Swanson stated that the Polk SWCD commissioners were their bosses. Hanson asked Dallas SWCD commissioner John Schultz if Dallas County had something similar. Schultz stated that yes, they did have staff. Schultz also spoke about the current initiative with rural Dallas County landowners of a 1% increase in organic matter over the next 10 years.

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Susan Judkins wanted to remind everyone that they are invited to be members of the North Raccoon WMA and encouraged them to do so. The next meeting will be September 20th.

10. Water Trails Update

Evan Del Val stated that they have been hired to complete plans for 150 miles of streams and rivers as a part of the MPO water trails plan. He said that they will be going to each jurisdiction and presenting them with water trails projects within their city limits along the waterways and associated costs. Be on the lookout for this report in the coming months. The final full report will be completed at the end of this year.

11. Public Comment

There was no public comment

12. Other Comments/Discussion

There was no further discussion

13. Next Meeting; October 16th, 2017 at 2:00pm

The meeting will be held at the Clive Aquatic Center

14. Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 3:36pm by Susan Judkins