

WALNUT CREEK WATERSHED

Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority Board Meeting Minutes

October 16th, 2017
2:00 PM

Clive Aquatic Center; 1801 NW 114th St, Clive, IA 50325

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
Brandt Williamson, City of Grimes
John Schultz, Dallas SWCD

Others-

Amanda Brown, Polk SWCD
Jonathan Gano, City of Des Moines
Dave DeGeus, The Nature Conservancy
Dan Pritchard, City of Des Moines
Allen Bonini, DNR
Mike Sotak, FYRA Enginnering
Rachel Conrad, City of Clive
Dylan Mullenix, Des Moines MPO
John Swanson, Polk SWCD
Mike Murphy, Guest
Kyle Riley, HR Green/Polk SWCD
Clifford Leonard, Guest
Jennifer Welch, Polk SWCD
Kristin Brostrom, City of Urbandale
Charles Ikenberry, FYRA Engineering
Lori Howe, Dallas SWCD

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-Brandt Williamson, 2nd-Darren Fife

3. Approval of the past minutes

Prior Minutes were approved. 1st-Brandt Williamson, 2nd- John Schultz

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4. Implementation Update

Jennifer Welch began by telling the group that the Urban Water Quality Initiative Grant is now open and taking proposals for projects. The grant does require that the applying entity works with an urban conservationist, so contact her if you have a project in mind. Welch encouraged all jurisdictions to apply, stating that there couldn't be "too many applications". She said it is good to have the projects on paper even if they don't get funded because they are then ready for another potential grant. John Swanson said that if there is more than one application from jurisdictions within the WMA that the WMA group could then endorse one they feel to be most beneficial to the watershed. If you are looking for ideas for this grant contact Jennifer or John.

Swanson went over an overview handout highlighting what has been accomplished throughout the first year of implementation (see attached). He stated that the biggest challenge Polk SWCD is facing is being spread out between three watersheds. The first year, he focused on getting projects on the ground using mainly an opportunity based strategy. In year two, he would like to create more dialog with the cities and have them decide the direction he should go. Swanson stated he would like to accomplish getting the cities more involved by having small breakout work sessions at the WMA meetings to get more feedback and accomplish more plan objectives. Lori Howe said she thought this was a great idea and would create a more open dialog at the meetings. Swanson said he would be sending a survey out to the group before the next meeting to determine topics for the next work session.

Darren Fife updated the group on the recent Walnut Creek Festival event that was held October 6th and 7th. Due to rain, the portion of the event that was supposed to take place in Clive on October 6th got canceled. They plan on rescheduling for this spring. The event was still held on the 7th but had lower turnout than they hoped due to rainy conditions. He said the group that attended did some invasive clean up. There was also booths set up in the shelter at Colby Park and fireworks in the evening. Susan Judkins thanked the group for all of their planning efforts.

Dylan Mullenix said that the MPO is still working on developing policy standards for the metro. They are working with DMACC and Capitol Crossroads to have stormwater policy become the next topic through the Local Government Collaboration. All three metro WMAs are in support of this. DMACC is currently going to each city to make sure they would like this to be the topic moving forward into the next year. Even if this is not the

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next topic, Mullenix stated that MPO will work with Polk SWCD to move forward on creating metro wide policy change recommendations. Swanson told the group that it is important for members to talk to their elected officials about this topic and why it is important. He said that Polk SWCD can come to meetings once new council members are elected to update them on what is going on. Judkins reminded the group that having stormwater policy as a focus through the Local Government Collaboration came from a facilitated discussion and a motion from the group.

5. Silver Jackets Watershed Project

Doug Ollendike told the group about a sheep vs goats project that was done in Clive as part of the Walnut Creek Watershed event. The city had sheep and goats along the greenbelt in separate pins for a week. They were there for vegetation management, trying to eat the invasive brush that was taking over. There was signage placed along the trail to educate the public on what was going on. Ollendike said overall they did a good job eating the brush and there seemed to be no negative feedback from the public. There is a GoFundMe page set up to try and bring the goats and sheep back for more vegetation management along the greenbelt. The city of Clive is also looking to potentially do a demonstration project in the future.

Ollendike updated the group on the Silver Jackets project. This project involves assessing damage potential in the watershed and looking at future flooding scenarios. Ollendike would like to see the project happen over the whole watershed and not just in Clive. He is requesting participation from all jurisdictions because everyone would benefit from this information. Over the next month or so they will be working out the project scope. All jurisdictions will be invited to participate in meetings and future conversations. Ollendike also told the group that the Agricultural Planning Framework Tool has been ran on the watershed. This tool looks at places where water quality and quantity practices can fit in the rural setting.

6. Council of the WMAs update

Susan Judkins said the next meeting is November 13th at 2:00pm at the MPO office. She also said there is a statewide WMA meeting October 18th that her and Fife will be attending.

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7. Public Comment

Dave DeGeus said that The Nature Conservancy has a lot of experience in the Lower Cedar with floodplain restoration. He would be happy to take interested parties to the location to show them examples of the progress they have made. DeGeus also stated that they are always looking for more oxbow sites, so if jurisdictions are interested they should contact him or Swanson. Ollendike said that the city of Clive will be digging their first oxbow the week of October 23rd.

8. Other Comments/Discussion

Judkins asked each jurisdiction to give an update on what is going on with their city or organization. Dave Russell told the group that the two oxbows within Urbandale will be installed in November.

Doug Stone updated the group about the work that has been completed at Colby Park in Windsor Heights. There is now a rain garden, native planting, bioretention cell, and native planting for residents to see in the park.

Mullenix said there will be public meetings next week about the Water Trails plan. Amanda Brown said she sent the dates and locations out the group. Mullenix also told the group they will be looking into water monitoring as part of the water trails.

Lori Howe said that the Dallas SWCD is working towards their 1% challenge. This sets a goal for producers who sign up to increase their organic matter by 1% over 10 years.

Ollendike said that the City of Clive has a streambank stabilization coming up and told the group to contact him if they would like to come and see the process the city uses. He also said that he would have tons of topsoil for anyone interested once the oxbows are dug out. Ollendike also stated that the city will be completing a study within a new development geared at determining if urban BMPs actually work like we hope. If any jurisdiction would like to partner on this study let him know.

Allen Bonini stated that the North Raccoon WMA interviewed for a coordinator and the next WMA meeting is December 13th in Lake City, IA. Bonin said that there was a Soil Quality Restoration completed on the Capitol lawn that ended up being the largest

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completed in the state. Bioretention cells will be installed on the Capitol grounds next year. He also stated that the IOWATER program has been reconfigured and now relies on locally led support. The DNR will be helping where they can, but are limited because of budget constraints. Bonini told the group that the air quality section of the DNR will be moving from their current location to the Wallace Building.

Dan Pritchard said that the city of Des Moines is currently working on a streambank stabilization on lower walnut. They are also working to use SRF dollars in the North Raccoon watershed on agriculture practices.

John Schultz said Urbandale is currently widening Meredith Drive and used fill dirt from a local producer's pond. He said that this is a good example of rural and urban partnership.

Swanson let the group know that he plans on holding a request for proposals for the watershed. This will give jurisdictions a chance to submit projects they would like done and give him a list of potential projects to work towards. Judkins said this is good in that it keeps cities from having to scramble at the last minute to get projects put together for grants.

Judkins told the group that she attended the Iowa Environmental Council meeting this year and was very impressed. She encouraged all to attend next year if they could.

Russell let the group know that the City of Urbandale will be holding a vigil for the 1 year anniversary of one of their police force members being killed. The vigil will be on November 2nd at 10am at the Urbandale police station.

9. Next Meeting; January 16th, 2018 at 2:00pm
The meeting will be held at the Clive Aquatic Center
10. Adjourn
Meeting was adjourned at 3:25pm by Susan Judkins

Year One WMA Highlights

Fourmile Creek Watershed

- Lower Fourmile Greenway Master Plan completed and practice implementation has begun including stream stabilization and a stormwater wetland
- Working on upstream regional detention and practice funding by jurisdictions collaborating to fund upstream practices for mutual benefit
- City of Slater installing practices at headwaters of watershed with SRF and WQI financial assistance
- Active participation from rural landowners, increased adoption of new conservation practices

Walnut Creek Watershed

- The Nature Conservancy has prioritized to restore wetlands and oxbows
- Windsor Heights developing water quality demonstration park for residents
- Clive was first community to adopt stormwater ordinance recommendations
- Of all watersheds, Walnut agricultural producers have been least receptive to conservation practices

Mud Camp Spring Creek Watershed

- Army Corps of Engineers has begun additional study on Spring Creek watershed
- Active community foundation in Bondurant has spurred the implementation of conservation practices including a drainage channel restoration
- Altoona planning large detention area at headwaters of Spring Creek
- Most active agricultural producers installing numerous conservation practices, several without financial assistance

Moving into year two

Polk SWCD recommends that each WMA consider ways to increase communication and input from members

- Help prioritizing the Polk SWCD team efforts
- Maximize opportunities available in the watershed

WMA Work Session Groups

- Small groups to focus on plan goals and collaborate on solutions
- Add work sessions to WMA meeting **or** hold individual work sessions separately
- Review of watershed management plan progress and priorities

How to better communicate and implement topics such as:

- Regional Detention
- Education/Outreach to engage residents
- Streambank restoration
- Retrofitting existing stormwater infrastructure
- Greenways

Practice Implementation Table

Mud, Camp, Spring Creek Watersheds

Practice	Amount	Cost
Grassed Waterway	11,400 ft.	\$51,697
Grade Stabilization	1 (no.)	\$45,000
Terraces	3,603 ft.	\$22,355
Stream Stabilization	300 ft.	\$28,000
Farm Pond	1 (no.)	\$30,000
Bondurant Prairie Swale	3,100 ft.	\$75,000
Constructed Wetland	1 (no.)	\$220,000

Fourmile Creek Watershed

Practice	Amount	Cost
Grassed Waterway	6,600 ft.	\$39,921
Saturated Buffer	3 (no.)	\$13,340
Prairie STRIPS	2,000 ft.	\$1,000
Bioreactor	1 (no.)	\$16,000
Pollinator Planting	3.9 acres	\$3,000
Wetland Restoration	3.7 acres	\$5,800
Stormwater Wetland	2 (no.)	\$255,000
Stream Stabilization	4,000 ft.	\$2,810,000
Permeable Pavers	10,000 sq. ft.	\$210,000
State Fair Permeable Trail	5,000 sq. ft.	\$69,412

Walnut Creek Watershed

Practice	Amount	Cost
Grassed Waterway	1,550 ft.	\$13,000
Saturated Buffer	2 (no.)	\$6,200
Bioreactor	1 (no.)	\$21,500
Oxbow Restorations	6 (no.)	\$115,000
Colby Park Demo	1 (no.)	\$17,000
WH IEDA Green Project	1 (no.)	\$1,400,000

Funding Sources – Total

Source	Amount
EQIP/RCPP	\$80,435
IFIP	\$24,980
REAP	\$9,000
ISU	\$2,000
CRP	\$32,220
WQI (Ag)	\$9,220
Private Landowner	\$169,129
WQI (Urban)	\$316,000
Metro Waste Authority	\$230,000
Local Jurisdictions	\$227,500
The Nature Conservancy	\$70,000
SRF Sponsored Project	\$2,810,000
IEDA	\$1,400,000
Total	\$5,380,484