



UCWMIA minutes for 12-5-2018

The quarterly meeting of the UCWMIA was called to order at 5pm by chairman Stephen Main with representatives from 16 member entities present. Motion by Abrahms to approve the agenda with the addition of Steve Diers under current projects, seconded by Tjaden. Carried. Motion by Diers, seconded by Erb to approve the minutes of the September meeting as mailed. Carried.

Steve Diers reported that all but \$150,000 of the \$1.6 million included in the Charles City RCCP grant program has been committed. Multi-year contracts to grow cover crops and several filter strip installations are some of the practices included. Diers also informed the group that Charles City will be applying for a Water Quality Initiative (WQI) grant for two projects in the city limits. Both will include structures and practice changes that will reduce nutrient levels that reach the river. Motion by Erb seconded by Bodensteiner to supply a letter of support from the UCWMIA for this project. Carried.

Kip Ladage gave a report on the city of Plainfield's continuing efforts on flood mitigation. A plan was approved in October, following many discussions with the Iowa DNR and DOT. The DOT will be installing some improved ditches along the Avenue of the Saints on the West side of town, with work to begin in July of 2019. Motion by Erb, seconded by Heidenwirth to offer a letter of support from the UCWMIA to the city of Plainfield, if requested.

Jim Erb, president of the statewide association of WMAs stated that they will have a state meeting in January and are moving forward with organizational details for the group. He also reminded the group that on December 12, 2018 the National Geographic channel will show the documentary "From Paris to Pittsburgh". The show addresses climate change efforts and consequences following the U. S. dropping out of the Paris Climate Accords. The flooding along the Cedar River in Iowa is featured. More info at ParistoPittsburg.com.

Discussion followed on the chances that the WILL legislation might be funded this legislative session. It was the consensus that if the conservation funding is passed there is a need for long term staffing at the state level to assist the twenty or so WMA's across the state rather than the current short term project and staff funding.

Marybeth Stephenson reported on progress made in the Cedar River Basin since 2008. Since the floods that occurred that year, over \$100 million has been spent on flood mitigation and water quality projects in the Cedar River Watershed. She stated that the Cedar River Coalition is planning a meeting on Feb 22, 2019 in Benton County.

Stephenson and Diers discussed a possible application for an Iowa Partners for Conservation Grant for fiscal 2019. They are looking for ideas on WMA projects to be used for matching funds. There is a January deadline for the application.

Next meeting set for March 6, 2019 at 5pm in the Charles City Library. Meeting adjourned at 6:30pm.

Dennis A Carney - Secretary