



Unapproved Minutes of the December 6, 2022, quarterly meeting of the Upper Cedar Watershed Management Improvement Authority

The quarterly meeting of the UCWMIA was called to order on December 6, 2022, at 6:00 PM by chair David Lehman.

Present: David Lehman (City of Plainfield/Bremmer County), Doug Johnson (Floyd SWCD), Jackie Armstrong (Mitchell SWCD), Kip Ladage (Bremer SWCD), Steve Breitbach (Chickasaw County), Dean Andrews (City of Charles City), Linda Tjaden (Floyd County), Josh Heims (NRCS Charles City), Tony Reed (Central Iowa Detention), Mark Kuhn (Supervisor Elect, Floyd County), Joel Wilkner (City of Denver), Scott Cerwinske (Supervisor Elect, Chickasaw County), Mary Beth Stevenson (City of Cedar Rapids), and Kate Hansen (The Center For Rural Affairs).

Motion by Linda Tjaden to approve the December 6, 2022, quarterly meeting agenda. Seconded by Jackie Armstrong. Motion approved.

Motion by Steve Breitbach to approve the September 6, 2022, quarterly meeting minutes. Seconded by Dave Lehman. Motion approved.

Reports:

Mary Beth Stevenson, Watersheds and Source Water Program Manager for the City of Cedar Rapids, updated the board on the Cedar River Source Water Partnership (CRSWP) project. An official project launch ceremony will be held in Cedar Rapids on January 26. The Iowa Soybean Association recently hired Evan Brehm ebrehm@iasoybeans.com as Conservation Agronomists for the CRSWP project area. Evan will be planning conservation systems with producers in the project area. Participating CO-OP's in the area (River Valley, IAS, North Country, Landis, Five Star, and Heartland) will be dedicating staff time for their agronomists to plan nutrient loss reduction conservation systems as well. Partner agronomists will focus their assistance in priority areas. \$4.9 million of the \$7 million of the USDA-NRCS RCPP funds is allocated for conservation practice financial assistance to participating growers. \$2.1 million is dedicated to education and outreach. An additional \$12 million will be contributed by the 11 CRSWP partners for technical assistance and financial assistance to growers in the project area.

Tony Reed with Central Iowa Detention shared information about the fiscal services that Central Iowa Detention could provide as fiscal agent for the UCWMIA when those services are needed in the future.

David Lehman reemphasized that the vice-chair position is still vacant. He called for any volunteers for the position.

Doug Johnson informed the board that he will continue to serve as secretary through June 6, 2023. He will not accept the nomination for secretary at the June 6, 2023 annual meeting. He will be contacting individuals on the board encouraging them to accept the nomination for secretary at the June 6, 2023 meeting.

Doug Johnson reported that a committee comprised of Dave Lehman, Sherm Lundy, Steve Main, and he are developing position descriptions and budgets for a full-time and a part-time UCWMIA coordinator position. These position descriptions and budgets for the positions are being developed to present to legislators and UCWMIA member entities for future financial support of a coordinator position. These draft position descriptions and budgets when approved by the committee will be presented to the board members for approval. Any additional input is welcomed.

Jackie Armstrong requested that UCWMIA board members contact their newly elected and present state legislators as soon as possible informing them about the UCWMIA and requesting their attendance at the March 7, 2023 UCWMIA meeting. Jackie recommended that the March 7 meeting focus on face to face discussion with our legislators detailing the need for WMA coordinators and requesting their support for state level funding of coordinator positions for all WMA's.

Doug Johnson reported that the committee developing coordinator position descriptions is also working on funding formulas for potential use if and when the UCWMIA requests financial support from UCWMIA member entities. So far the committee has assembled population data and geographic area data for the Iowa counties in the upper cedar river watershed. Draft funding formulas will be presented to the board for consideration at a future meeting.

Upcoming Events:

Suggested Agenda Items for the March 7, 2023, UCWMIA Meeting:

None in addition to inviting legislators to the meeting.

Next meeting:

The board decided they would like to hold future UCWMIA meetings at the Floyd county emergency operations center (EOC). Linda Tjaden committed to reserving the Floyd County EOC meeting room for the March 7, 2023 meeting. Doug Johnson reported that the Charles City library Zastrow meeting room is still reserved for the 3/7/2023, 6/6/2023, and 9/5/2023 UCWMIA meetings in case it is needed.

The March 7, 2023, meeting is scheduled for 6:00 PM at the Floyd County Emergency Operations Center.

Motion by Linda Tjaden to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Steve Breitbach. Motion approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Submitted December 16, 2022

Douglas Johnson
UCWMIA Secretary